

1
00:00:00,566 --> 00:00:00,566
□□

2
00:00:00,566 --> 00:00:06,200
□□

3
00:00:06,233 --> 00:00:07,433
□□

4
00:00:06,233 --> 00:00:07,466
□□

5
00:00:07,466 --> 00:00:09,800
□□

6
00:00:16,466 --> 00:00:18,333
-We may encounter many defeats,

7
00:00:18,433 --> 00:00:21,900
but we must not be defeated.

8
00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:25,500
But, in fact, it may be
necessary to encounter defeat

9
00:00:25,600 --> 00:00:27,766
so we can know
who the hell we are.

10
00:00:30,066 --> 00:00:31,366
What can we overcome?

11
00:00:31,466 --> 00:00:32,566
What makes us stumble

12
00:00:32,666 --> 00:00:37,033
and fall and somehow
miraculously rise...

13
00:00:37,133 --> 00:00:39,533
and go on?

14
00:00:39,633 --> 00:00:41,266
[Cheers and applause]

15

00:00:49,066 --> 00:00:52,633

□ I open my mouth

16

00:00:52,733 --> 00:00:55,800

□ To the Lord, and I

17

00:00:55,900 --> 00:00:59,066

□ Won't turn back, no

18

00:00:59,166 --> 00:01:02,066

□ I will go

19

00:01:02,166 --> 00:01:04,900

□ I shall go

20

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:11,300

□ To see what the end
is gonna be □

21

00:01:11,400 --> 00:01:13,733

□□

22

00:01:15,500 --> 00:01:17,300

-Maya was a dancer.

23

00:01:17,400 --> 00:01:20,500

She sang.

She was an actress.

24

00:01:20,600 --> 00:01:22,133

-And still be your grandmother!

25

00:01:22,233 --> 00:01:24,466

-And, of course,
she was a writer.

26

00:01:24,566 --> 00:01:28,433

So she was
a consummate performer.

27

00:01:28,533 --> 00:01:31,700

And I think that,
for whatever else it is,

28

00:01:31,800 --> 00:01:33,833

this is a life lived onstage.

29
00:01:33,933 --> 00:01:37,533
-Lift up your heart
and say simply...

30
00:01:37,633 --> 00:01:39,600
"Good morning."

31
00:01:39,700 --> 00:01:41,033
[Applause]

32
00:01:41,133 --> 00:01:44,300
-You have a woman
who is like a tree trunk.

33
00:01:44,400 --> 00:01:46,833
You know what I mean?
She's like a redwood.

34
00:01:46,933 --> 00:01:53,633
And she has deep, deep roots
within American culture.

35
00:01:53,733 --> 00:01:59,200
-I remember setting down
and opening a book

36
00:01:59,300 --> 00:02:02,533
and feeling like I'm breathing
for the first time.

37
00:02:02,633 --> 00:02:07,066
-She was able to go way
back and remember...

38
00:02:07,166 --> 00:02:09,333
in a very meaningful way,

39
00:02:09,433 --> 00:02:12,800
things that I think
she never told anybody.

40
00:02:12,900 --> 00:02:14,933
-Maya was responsible
for teaching me

41
00:02:15,033 --> 00:02:17,266
why I should know more

about my roots.

42

00:02:17,366 --> 00:02:21,900
I remember her being angry,
very angry.

43

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:26,500
-I would hate to see her
just remembered for one thing.

44

00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:27,866
The phenomenal woman

45

00:02:27,966 --> 00:02:30,366
is not just the title
of something she wrote.

46

00:02:30,466 --> 00:02:32,833
It's who she was.

47

00:02:39,966 --> 00:02:42,400
[]

48

00:02:49,400 --> 00:02:53,700
-The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill

49

00:02:53,800 --> 00:02:57,933
of things unknown
but longed for still.

50

00:02:58,033 --> 00:03:00,766
And his tune is heard
on the distant hill,

51

00:03:00,866 --> 00:03:05,533
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

52

00:03:05,633 --> 00:03:08,300
The free bird thinks
of another breeze.

53

00:03:08,400 --> 00:03:10,400
And the trade winds soft

54

00:03:10,500 --> 00:03:12,566

through the sighing trees

55

00:03:12,666 --> 00:03:17,700
and the fat worms
waiting on a dawn bright lawn

56

00:03:17,800 --> 00:03:21,266
and he names the sky his own.

57

00:03:21,366 --> 00:03:24,100
But a bird that stalks down
his narrow cage

58

00:03:24,200 --> 00:03:26,800
can seldom see
through his bars of rage.

59

00:03:26,900 --> 00:03:29,500
His feet are tied,
his wings are clipped,

60

00:03:29,600 --> 00:03:32,500
so he opens his throat to sing.

61

00:03:35,233 --> 00:03:38,033
My father was Bailey Johnson,

62

00:03:38,133 --> 00:03:40,433
and at 16, he left home --

63

00:03:40,533 --> 00:03:42,966
he left this little
village in the South.

64

00:03:43,066 --> 00:03:45,766
Went to World War I

65

00:03:45,866 --> 00:03:50,833
and came back much
too grand for his skin.

66

00:03:50,933 --> 00:03:54,633
But he was handsome.
He spoke French.

67

00:03:54,733 --> 00:03:57,166
He was debonair,

68
00:03:57,266 --> 00:04:01,400
and he would have been
lynched in the South.

69
00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:08,866
So he became a doorman
at a swank hotel in Los Angeles.

70
00:04:08,966 --> 00:04:12,633
My mother was a very pretty
woman from St. Louis...

71
00:04:12,733 --> 00:04:16,433
and who loved him quite a lot.

72
00:04:16,533 --> 00:04:20,433
They were absolutely
too volatile to be together.

73
00:04:20,533 --> 00:04:25,500
But she was a very bright woman
and very courageous.

74
00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,733
One of the first memories
I have, I was 3 years old

75
00:04:32,833 --> 00:04:35,900
and my brother, Bailey, 5.

76
00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,466
My father and mother
had agreed to disagree.

77
00:04:39,566 --> 00:04:43,000
And neither of them
wanted the problems

78
00:04:43,100 --> 00:04:46,600
of having two toddlers.

79
00:04:46,700 --> 00:04:48,033
So they put us on a train

80
00:04:48,133 --> 00:04:51,466
and sent us from Los Angeles

to Arkansas

81

00:04:51,566 --> 00:04:56,400
with tags on our arms,
no adult supervision.

82

00:04:56,500 --> 00:04:58,666
Pullman car porters
took us off trains,

83

00:04:58,766 --> 00:05:00,900
put us on other trains.

84

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,700
And we arrived in Stamps --

85

00:05:03,800 --> 00:05:07,166
a little village in Arkansas
about the size of this room.

86

00:05:09,333 --> 00:05:10,733
I thought it was the worst thing

87

00:05:10,833 --> 00:05:14,100
when I just declared
my mother dead

88

00:05:14,200 --> 00:05:16,733
so that I wouldn't have
to long for her.

89

00:05:19,366 --> 00:05:21,533
Yes, that was
terrible rejection.

90

00:05:21,633 --> 00:05:24,166
My brother has never recovered.

91

00:05:29,433 --> 00:05:32,233
My grandmother owned
the only black-owned store

92

00:05:32,333 --> 00:05:34,366
in that little village.

93

00:05:34,466 --> 00:05:37,966
And she had one more child,

my Uncle Willie.

94

00:05:38,066 --> 00:05:41,233

She was a child
of a former slave.

95

00:05:41,333 --> 00:05:42,933

Amazing.

96

00:05:43,033 --> 00:05:45,566

I think my grandmother
started teaching me to read

97

00:05:45,666 --> 00:05:47,966

that afternoon when we arrived.

98

00:05:48,066 --> 00:05:49,333

And a black lady in town

99

00:05:49,433 --> 00:05:51,433

had some connection
with the white school,

100

00:05:51,533 --> 00:05:54,833

so she brought books
from the white school.

101

00:05:54,933 --> 00:05:58,566

And Bailey would read them,
and I would read them.

102

00:05:58,666 --> 00:06:02,133

My brother, Bailey, taught me,
"Just learn everything.

103

00:06:02,233 --> 00:06:04,066

Put it in your brain.

104

00:06:04,166 --> 00:06:07,666

You're smarter than
everybody around here --

105

00:06:07,766 --> 00:06:10,300

except me, of course."

106

00:06:10,400 --> 00:06:13,100

And he was right.

He was smart.

107

00:06:13,200 --> 00:06:16,500

But he was also
protective of me.

108

00:06:16,600 --> 00:06:20,833

[Train horn blowing, clacking]

109

00:06:20,933 --> 00:06:25,366

In my memory, Stamps
was a place of light,

110

00:06:25,466 --> 00:06:27,633

shadow, sounds,

111

00:06:27,733 --> 00:06:30,566

and entrancing odors.

112

00:06:30,666 --> 00:06:35,400

The yellowish acid
of the ponds and rivers,

113

00:06:35,500 --> 00:06:39,366

the deep pots of greens
cooking for hours

114

00:06:39,466 --> 00:06:42,400

with smoked or cured pork,

115

00:06:42,500 --> 00:06:44,800

and above all,

116

00:06:44,900 --> 00:06:47,733

the atmosphere was pressed down

117

00:06:47,833 --> 00:06:51,933

with the smell of old fears.

118

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:58,400

Is that all the size
of the bridge?

119

00:06:58,500 --> 00:07:00,666

[Laughs]

120

00:07:00,766 --> 00:07:04,133

I was terribly hurt
in this town.

121

00:07:04,233 --> 00:07:06,666

And...

122

00:07:06,766 --> 00:07:09,366

vastly loved.

123

00:07:11,733 --> 00:07:13,833

My grandmother never spent money

124

00:07:13,933 --> 00:07:15,966

on anything but land.

125

00:07:16,066 --> 00:07:17,766

She owned land.

126

00:07:17,866 --> 00:07:23,166

And a lot of poor whites

lived on land we owned.

127

00:07:23,266 --> 00:07:25,133

One day, three white girls

128

00:07:25,233 --> 00:07:28,900

came down into the clearing

in front of the store,

129

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:32,500

and they said, "Hello, Annie,"

hello to my grandmother.

130

00:07:32,600 --> 00:07:33,900

And Mama said,

"Hello, Miss Elaine.

131

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:36,466

Hello, miss,"

whatever their names were.

132

00:07:36,566 --> 00:07:37,733

And one girl told the other,

133

00:07:37,833 --> 00:07:39,966

she said,

"Stand on your hands."

134

00:07:40,066 --> 00:07:43,566
And she stood on her hands
and had no drawers on.

135

00:07:43,666 --> 00:07:46,400
And her dress fell
down around her.

136

00:07:46,500 --> 00:07:50,133
And she showed herself
to my grandmother.

137

00:07:50,233 --> 00:07:54,033
Oh, I couldn't stand it.
Mama started singing...

138

00:07:54,133 --> 00:07:58,433
□ By and by

139

00:07:58,533 --> 00:08:01,133
I found
that I was praying, too.

140

00:08:01,233 --> 00:08:03,466
How long could Mama hold out?

141

00:08:03,566 --> 00:08:07,733
What new indignity would they
think of to subject her to?

142

00:08:07,833 --> 00:08:09,766
And she stood there
until the girls went on

143

00:08:09,866 --> 00:08:12,866
and walked on past the store
and into town.

144

00:08:15,966 --> 00:08:18,400
Uncle Willie was crippled.

145

00:08:18,500 --> 00:08:21,133
His whole right side
was paralyzed.

146

00:08:21,233 --> 00:08:24,166

My Uncle Willie

taught me my times tables.

147

00:08:24,266 --> 00:08:26,866

He'd say, "Now, sister,

do your foursies,

148

00:08:26,966 --> 00:08:29,633

do your sevensies,

do your elevensies."

149

00:08:29,733 --> 00:08:33,533

I learned my multiplication

tables exquisitely.

150

00:08:36,066 --> 00:08:38,633

And when the boys, as they

were euphemistically called,

151

00:08:38,733 --> 00:08:42,900

when the Klan would ride down

the hill toward the store...

152

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:44,433

-Maya?

153

00:08:44,533 --> 00:08:47,333

Bailey Jr.?

Both of you!

154

00:08:47,433 --> 00:08:50,500

-...we had to hide Uncle Willie.

155

00:08:50,600 --> 00:08:53,766

-The potatoes, the onions.

156

00:08:53,866 --> 00:08:55,133

-'Cause a white girl could say,

157

00:08:55,233 --> 00:08:58,933

"Well, he made an attempt

to touch me."

158

00:08:59,033 --> 00:09:03,466

-It just shouldn't be.

159

00:09:03,566 --> 00:09:08,166

-We had to help Uncle Willie
to get down in the bin.

160

00:09:08,266 --> 00:09:11,166

And we'd cover him
with potatoes and onions.

161

00:09:14,566 --> 00:09:16,133

And I could just picture
his tears

162

00:09:16,233 --> 00:09:18,966

going into the eyes
of the potatoes.

163

00:09:22,266 --> 00:09:27,100

The Klan would ride up
in front of the store.

164

00:09:27,200 --> 00:09:30,333

Bailey and I would peek
out the window.

165

00:09:30,433 --> 00:09:32,966

Tall horses that looked so big.

166

00:09:33,066 --> 00:09:35,966

They didn't look like
horses you see every day.

167

00:09:36,066 --> 00:09:39,300

Big guns.

168

00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:44,366

So one of my fantasies
when I was, oh, 7 --

169

00:09:44,466 --> 00:09:49,300

6 or 7 was that suddenly
there'd be --

170

00:09:49,400 --> 00:09:52,566

somebody would say, "Shazam!"

171

00:09:52,666 --> 00:09:53,900

And I would be white.

172
00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,866
And I wouldn't be looked at
with such loathing

173
00:09:57,966 --> 00:10:00,366
when I walked
in the white part of town,

174
00:10:00,466 --> 00:10:01,666
which I had to do.

175
00:10:01,766 --> 00:10:05,066
You really wish either

176
00:10:05,166 --> 00:10:09,033
that you could dry up
in the moment

177
00:10:09,133 --> 00:10:11,766
and just shrivel up like that.

178
00:10:11,866 --> 00:10:14,133
And instead of that,
I'd put my head up

179
00:10:14,233 --> 00:10:18,000
and walk through, grit my teeth.

180
00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:19,966
Surviving, but, my God,

181
00:10:20,066 --> 00:10:23,366
what scars does that
leave on somebody?

182
00:10:23,466 --> 00:10:26,733
I wouldn't -- I don't even
dare examine it myself.

183
00:10:26,833 --> 00:10:32,766
And when I reached
for the pen...

184
00:10:32,866 --> 00:10:36,133
-To write?
-To write.

185
00:10:36,233 --> 00:10:39,600
...I have to scrape it
across those scars

186
00:10:39,700 --> 00:10:42,333
to sharpen that point.

187
00:10:44,833 --> 00:10:49,700
If growing up is painful
for the Southern black girl,

188
00:10:49,800 --> 00:10:52,333
being aware of her displacement

189
00:10:52,433 --> 00:10:57,333
is the rust on the razor
that threatens the throat.

190
00:10:57,433 --> 00:11:00,000
It is an unnecessary insult.

191
00:11:03,566 --> 00:11:06,700
[Up-tempo jazz music plays]

192
00:11:06,800 --> 00:11:10,433
And then at about 6 or 7,

193
00:11:10,533 --> 00:11:13,133
my father took me
and my brother, Bailey,

194
00:11:13,233 --> 00:11:16,600
back to St. Louis, to my mother,
to her family.

195
00:11:16,700 --> 00:11:19,800
She had left California
after they separated.

196
00:11:22,533 --> 00:11:25,233
The Negro section of St. Louis
in the mid-'30s

197
00:11:25,333 --> 00:11:28,666
had all the finesse
of a gold-rush town.

198
00:11:28,766 --> 00:11:32,566
Prohibition, gambling,
and their related vocations

199
00:11:32,666 --> 00:11:34,766
were so obviously practiced

200
00:11:34,866 --> 00:11:36,600
that it was hard
for me to believe

201
00:11:36,700 --> 00:11:39,200
that they were
against the law.

202
00:11:39,300 --> 00:11:42,166
My mother had record players

203
00:11:42,266 --> 00:11:46,033
and jazz and blues songs,

204
00:11:46,133 --> 00:11:47,566
and it was amazing.

205
00:11:47,666 --> 00:11:49,466
And she danced.

206
00:11:49,566 --> 00:11:52,200
She wore lipstick and --

207
00:11:52,300 --> 00:11:55,800
Oh, my grandmother would
never do anything like that.

208
00:11:58,233 --> 00:12:02,833
My mother's boyfriend
was intoxicated with my mother.

209
00:12:02,933 --> 00:12:07,300
In his rage at his inability
to control her

210
00:12:07,400 --> 00:12:12,700
and have her when
he wanted her, he raped me.

211

00:12:12,800 --> 00:12:14,300

I was 7.

212

00:12:17,133 --> 00:12:20,133

The act of rape is the matter
of the needle giving

213

00:12:20,233 --> 00:12:22,566

because the camel cannot.

214

00:12:22,666 --> 00:12:25,233

The child gives
because the body can

215

00:12:25,333 --> 00:12:28,133

and the mind
of the violator cannot.

216

00:12:32,100 --> 00:12:36,800

I told the name of the rapist
to my brother, who was 9.

217

00:12:36,900 --> 00:12:39,266

I said, "I can't
tell you his name

218

00:12:39,366 --> 00:12:41,166

because he said
he would kill you."

219

00:12:41,266 --> 00:12:43,066

He said, "I won't let him."

220

00:12:43,166 --> 00:12:44,700

So I believed him.

221

00:12:44,800 --> 00:12:49,666

The man was put in jail for
one day and night and released.

222

00:12:49,766 --> 00:12:51,200

And a few days later, the police

223

00:12:51,300 --> 00:12:54,666

came to my mother's
mother's house

224

00:12:54,766 --> 00:12:57,100
and said the man
had been found dead.

225
00:12:57,200 --> 00:13:01,033
And it seemed he'd
been kicked to death.

226
00:13:01,133 --> 00:13:03,666
My 7-year-old logic told me

227
00:13:03,766 --> 00:13:06,966
that my voice had killed a man.

228
00:13:07,066 --> 00:13:10,733
So I stopped speaking
for five years.

229
00:13:14,066 --> 00:13:18,033
I clamped my teeth shut.
I'd hold it in.

230
00:13:18,133 --> 00:13:22,866
If I talked to anyone else,
that person might die, too.

231
00:13:22,966 --> 00:13:25,900
I had to stop talking.

232
00:13:30,300 --> 00:13:33,000
But I could listen.

233
00:13:33,100 --> 00:13:36,600
I used to think of
my whole body as an ear.

234
00:13:36,700 --> 00:13:42,500
I could go into a room
and just absorb sound.

235
00:13:42,600 --> 00:13:45,933
My mother's people tried
to move me away from my mutism,

236
00:13:46,033 --> 00:13:47,800
but they didn't know
what I knew.

237
00:13:47,900 --> 00:13:50,400
I knew my voice
could kill people.

238
00:13:50,500 --> 00:13:53,133
So it was better not to speak.

239
00:13:53,233 --> 00:13:54,900
I think they wearied
of the presence

240
00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:56,933
of this sullen, silent child.

241
00:13:57,033 --> 00:13:58,766
So they put me and Bailey

242
00:13:58,866 --> 00:14:03,933
back on a train back
to Stamps to my grandmother.

243
00:14:04,033 --> 00:14:06,733
And one of the first things
I remember

244
00:14:06,833 --> 00:14:09,233
was my grandmother
braiding my hair.

245
00:14:09,333 --> 00:14:11,800
And my hair was huge.

246
00:14:11,900 --> 00:14:13,833
She said, "Sister, Mama
don't care these people say

247
00:14:13,933 --> 00:14:15,200
you must be an idiot

248
00:14:15,300 --> 00:14:18,200
or you must be a moron
'cause you can't talk.

249
00:14:18,300 --> 00:14:19,733
Mama don't care.

250

00:14:19,833 --> 00:14:22,066

Mama knows when you
and the good Lord get ready,

251

00:14:22,166 --> 00:14:24,366
sister, you gonna be a preacher
and you gonna a be a teacher.

252

00:14:24,466 --> 00:14:28,300
You gonna teach all
over this world."

253

00:14:28,400 --> 00:14:30,433
I used to sit there and think,
"This poor, ignorant woman.

254

00:14:30,533 --> 00:14:33,133
Doesn't she know
I will never speak?"

255

00:14:41,466 --> 00:14:44,233
There was a lady in town,
Mrs. Flowers,

256

00:14:44,333 --> 00:14:48,200
and she would take me
to her house about twice a year.

257

00:14:48,300 --> 00:14:50,133
She made lemonade
and tea cookies,

258

00:14:50,233 --> 00:14:52,500
big cookies like that
in the South.

259

00:14:52,600 --> 00:14:54,300
Delicious!

260

00:14:54,400 --> 00:14:55,966
And she'd serve me.

261

00:14:56,066 --> 00:14:57,933
And she knew I didn't speak.

262

00:14:58,033 --> 00:15:03,000
And she'd read one
of the poets to me.

263
00:15:03,100 --> 00:15:07,700
She'd done this with me
for three or four years.

264
00:15:07,800 --> 00:15:10,766
And, finally, I was at her house
one day, and she said,

265
00:15:10,866 --> 00:15:12,833
"Maya, you don't like poetry."

266
00:15:12,933 --> 00:15:17,366
Oh, I said yes, but she wouldn't
even pick up my tablet.

267
00:15:17,466 --> 00:15:18,866
She wouldn't look at it.

268
00:15:18,966 --> 00:15:20,733
And then she pointed at me,

269
00:15:20,833 --> 00:15:24,000
and she was a grand
and gentle lady.

270
00:15:24,100 --> 00:15:27,033
She said, "You'll never like it
until you speak it,

271
00:15:27,133 --> 00:15:29,200
until you feel it
come across your tongue,

272
00:15:29,300 --> 00:15:31,166
over your teeth,
through your lips.

273
00:15:31,266 --> 00:15:34,366
You will never like it."

274
00:15:34,466 --> 00:15:37,500
So, finally,
I went under the house

275
00:15:37,600 --> 00:15:39,233
where there used to be chickens

276
00:15:39,333 --> 00:15:43,466
and the dirt was soft
like powder.

277
00:15:43,566 --> 00:15:45,900
And I tried poetry.

278
00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:48,133
[]

279
00:15:51,966 --> 00:15:58,233
Now, to show you how out of evil
there can come good,

280
00:15:58,333 --> 00:16:00,433
in those five years,

281
00:16:00,533 --> 00:16:05,733
I read every book
in the black school library.

282
00:16:05,833 --> 00:16:11,200
I read all the books I could get
from the white school library.

283
00:16:11,300 --> 00:16:13,533
I memorized
James Weldon Johnson,

284
00:16:13,633 --> 00:16:15,533
Paul Laurence Dunbar,
Countee Cullen,

285
00:16:15,633 --> 00:16:17,566
and Langston Hughes.

286
00:16:17,666 --> 00:16:22,633
I memorized Shakespeare --
whole plays.

287
00:16:22,733 --> 00:16:25,933
50 sonnets.

288
00:16:26,033 --> 00:16:30,600
I memorized Edgar Allan Poe,
all the poetry.

289
00:16:30,700 --> 00:16:32,400
I had Longfellow.

290
00:16:32,500 --> 00:16:36,600
I had Guy de Maupassant.
I had Balzac.

291
00:16:36,700 --> 00:16:43,700
When I decided to speak,
I had a lot to say.

292
00:16:43,800 --> 00:16:46,533
I have written a poem
for a woman

293
00:16:46,633 --> 00:16:49,100
who rides a bus
in New York City.

294
00:16:49,200 --> 00:16:50,333
She's a maid.

295
00:16:50,433 --> 00:16:52,466
She has two shopping bags.

296
00:16:52,566 --> 00:16:54,900
When the bus stops
abruptly, she laughs.

297
00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:57,500
If the bus stops slowly,
she laughs.

298
00:16:57,600 --> 00:16:59,400
I thought, "Mmm, uh-huh."

299
00:16:59,500 --> 00:17:01,033
Now, if you don't know
black features,

300
00:17:01,133 --> 00:17:03,033
you may think she's laughing.

301
00:17:03,133 --> 00:17:04,599
But she wasn't laughing.

302
00:17:04,700 --> 00:17:07,700
She was simply extending her
lips and making a sound.

303
00:17:07,800 --> 00:17:09,633
[Laughs]

304
00:17:09,733 --> 00:17:10,866
I said, "Oh, I see."

305
00:17:10,966 --> 00:17:13,833
That's that survival apparatus.

306
00:17:13,933 --> 00:17:18,233
Now, let me write about that
to honor this woman

307
00:17:18,333 --> 00:17:21,166
who helps us to survive.

308
00:17:21,266 --> 00:17:24,833
70 years in these folks' world,

309
00:17:24,933 --> 00:17:29,633
the child I works for
calls me girl.

310
00:17:29,733 --> 00:17:33,400
I say [Laughs]
"Yes, ma'am"...

311
00:17:33,500 --> 00:17:35,600
for working's sake.

312
00:17:35,700 --> 00:17:38,833
I'm too proud to bend
and too poor to break.

313
00:17:38,933 --> 00:17:40,966
So [Chuckles]

314
00:17:41,066 --> 00:17:43,266
I laugh...

315
00:17:43,366 --> 00:17:48,433
until my stomach ache

when I think about myself.

316

00:17:48,533 --> 00:17:51,933
My folks can make me
split my side.

317

00:17:52,033 --> 00:17:57,033
I laugh so hard [Laughs]
I nearly died.

318

00:17:57,133 --> 00:18:01,400
The tales they tell
sound just like lying.

319

00:18:01,500 --> 00:18:04,100
They grow the fruit
but eat the rind.

320

00:18:04,200 --> 00:18:06,933
Hmm. [Chuckles]
I laugh.

321

00:18:07,033 --> 00:18:09,000
[Laughs]

322

00:18:09,100 --> 00:18:11,366
Until I start to cry.

323

00:18:11,466 --> 00:18:13,300
When I think about myself.

324

00:18:13,400 --> 00:18:14,700
[Laughing]

325

00:18:20,133 --> 00:18:22,466
[Sobs]

326

00:18:31,266 --> 00:18:33,500
[]

327

00:18:38,633 --> 00:18:42,933
-A painting of Maya is
to be placed

328

00:18:43,033 --> 00:18:46,466
in the Smithsonian Institute.

329
00:18:46,566 --> 00:18:48,233
It's quite an honor.

330
00:18:48,333 --> 00:18:50,933
-Thank you.
Thank you.

331
00:18:51,033 --> 00:18:53,233
-Miss Angelou?
-Yes, sir?

332
00:18:53,333 --> 00:18:54,866
-Oh, my goodness gracious!

333
00:18:54,966 --> 00:18:56,800
How are you, girl?

334
00:18:56,900 --> 00:18:58,933
[Indistinct talking]

335
00:19:01,600 --> 00:19:06,666
-I wish my grandmother,
who died 50 years ago,

336
00:19:06,766 --> 00:19:11,233
I wish she was alive
and could see this.

337
00:19:11,333 --> 00:19:14,000
[Cheers and applause]

338
00:19:14,100 --> 00:19:16,566
Wow!

339
00:19:16,666 --> 00:19:19,000
Oh, my lands!

340
00:19:19,100 --> 00:19:22,000
We have made tremendous gains.

341
00:19:22,100 --> 00:19:24,666
Not nearly as much
as we want to.

342
00:19:24,766 --> 00:19:28,866
If I had the power, I would make

everybody an African-American.

343

00:19:28,966 --> 00:19:30,066

[Laughter]

344

00:19:30,166 --> 00:19:32,700

At least for a week.

345

00:19:32,800 --> 00:19:33,900

Know what it's like.

346

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:36,000

Know what it's like
to get on a bus

347

00:19:36,100 --> 00:19:39,066

or any public conveyance
and have people look at you

348

00:19:39,166 --> 00:19:43,600

as if you'd just
stolen the baby's milk.

349

00:19:43,700 --> 00:19:46,266

Like, look at you
and turn their face away.

350

00:19:46,366 --> 00:19:50,133

And still saying,
"I forgive you."

351

00:19:50,233 --> 00:19:52,100

I'm not starting any --

352

00:19:52,200 --> 00:19:55,000

I'm not starting any race riots.

353

00:19:55,100 --> 00:19:56,333

I forgive you.

354

00:19:56,433 --> 00:19:57,533

-Yeah!

355

00:19:57,633 --> 00:19:59,566

-And I forgive myself.

356

00:19:59,666 --> 00:20:00,833

My Lord!

357

00:20:00,933 --> 00:20:03,033

-Mmm.

-Huh?

358

00:20:03,133 --> 00:20:04,533

-Do it.

-And that's it.

359

00:20:04,633 --> 00:20:06,033

My son said, "Do it, Ma."

360

00:20:06,133 --> 00:20:07,100

-Yeah.

361

00:20:07,200 --> 00:20:09,200

[Applause]

362

00:20:09,300 --> 00:20:12,133

-I want to acknowledge
the presence of my son.

363

00:20:12,233 --> 00:20:13,800

The greatest thing
that ever happened to me

364

00:20:13,900 --> 00:20:16,766

was to give birth
to Guy Johnson

365

00:20:16,866 --> 00:20:19,600

and to have the privilege
and the pleasure

366

00:20:19,700 --> 00:20:23,933

and the fear and the great
and all of that of raising...

367

00:20:24,033 --> 00:20:27,633

that black boy
in a white country.

368

00:20:29,700 --> 00:20:34,233

I was 16, living
in San Francisco.

369
00:20:34,333 --> 00:20:36,566
I was almost six foot.

370
00:20:36,666 --> 00:20:38,566
And there was a boy
who used to say,

371
00:20:38,666 --> 00:20:40,000
"Hey, Maya,
when you gonna give me

372
00:20:40,100 --> 00:20:42,466
some of that long brown frame?"

373
00:20:42,566 --> 00:20:45,566
And so one day I saw him
in the street, and I said,

374
00:20:45,666 --> 00:20:48,000
"Say, do you still want?"

375
00:20:48,100 --> 00:20:49,166
He said, "What?!"

376
00:20:49,266 --> 00:20:50,833
And I said,
"Let's go somewhere."

377
00:20:50,933 --> 00:20:54,600
So he had the keys
to a friend's house,

378
00:20:54,700 --> 00:20:56,000
and we went there.

379
00:20:56,100 --> 00:20:59,000
And we had sex.

380
00:20:59,100 --> 00:21:01,300
And I thought,
"Is that all there is?"

381
00:21:01,400 --> 00:21:03,666
People making such
a big miration.

382

00:21:03,766 --> 00:21:07,533

I had watched people
in the movies, and they --

383

00:21:07,633 --> 00:21:11,433

they were just so pleased
to be in each other's arms.

384

00:21:11,533 --> 00:21:13,600

I didn't feel any of that.

385

00:21:13,700 --> 00:21:15,166

And I ask him,
"Is that all there is?"

386

00:21:15,266 --> 00:21:17,300

And he said, "Yeah."

387

00:21:17,400 --> 00:21:19,466

So I said, "Okay, bye."

388

00:21:19,566 --> 00:21:20,966

And I went home.

389

00:21:21,066 --> 00:21:23,700

And a month later,
I found I was pregnant.

390

00:21:26,166 --> 00:21:28,633

My mother never
made me feel guilty.

391

00:21:28,733 --> 00:21:31,166

She never made me
feel ashamed.

392

00:21:31,266 --> 00:21:32,466

She asked me,
"Do you love the boy?"

393

00:21:32,566 --> 00:21:34,266

I said, "No."

She asked, "Does he love you?"

394

00:21:34,366 --> 00:21:35,566

I said, "No."

395

00:21:35,666 --> 00:21:37,833

She said, "We're not
going to ruin three lives.

396

00:21:37,933 --> 00:21:40,000

You're going to have
a beautiful baby."

397

00:21:40,100 --> 00:21:43,166

And that's just the way
she treated him.

398

00:21:43,266 --> 00:21:45,300

And me.

399

00:21:45,400 --> 00:21:48,933

Then a fellow started coming.

400

00:21:49,033 --> 00:21:52,766

He had been a sailor --
Tosh Angelos, a Greek.

401

00:21:52,866 --> 00:21:55,133

I didn't think that white
and blacks

402

00:21:55,233 --> 00:21:58,133

would get together like that.

403

00:21:58,233 --> 00:22:01,033

But I liked him.
He was bright.

404

00:22:01,133 --> 00:22:04,033

He had read as much
as I had read.

405

00:22:04,133 --> 00:22:06,266

He had read the Russian writers,

406

00:22:06,366 --> 00:22:09,166

and he liked my son.

407

00:22:09,266 --> 00:22:12,300

When he asked me to marry him,
his mother said,

408

00:22:12,400 --> 00:22:15,366

"You can't marry her.
She's black."

409

00:22:15,466 --> 00:22:18,633

He said, "I noticed that first."

410

00:22:18,733 --> 00:22:21,366

My mother was
so disgusted with me.

411

00:22:21,466 --> 00:22:25,233

She moved a 14-room house

412

00:22:25,333 --> 00:22:29,066

two days before the wedding
500 miles away.

413

00:22:29,166 --> 00:22:31,100

14 rooms.

414

00:22:31,200 --> 00:22:33,166

But then she fell for him.

415

00:22:33,266 --> 00:22:36,133

He was a good husband.
He was a good father.

416

00:22:36,233 --> 00:22:38,233

She fell for him,
so a few years later

417

00:22:38,333 --> 00:22:40,566

when I said to her,
"I'm leaving him,"

418

00:22:40,666 --> 00:22:42,666

she said, "How can you?

419

00:22:42,766 --> 00:22:44,433

How dare you?"

420

00:22:44,533 --> 00:22:47,233

But I won't stay
in a relationship

421

00:22:47,333 --> 00:22:50,533

if there's no love there.

422

00:22:50,633 --> 00:22:52,200
In his nine years
of schooling,

423

00:22:52,300 --> 00:22:55,066
we had lived in five
areas of San Francisco,

424

00:22:55,166 --> 00:22:57,200
three townships in Los Angeles,

425

00:22:57,300 --> 00:22:59,333
New York City, Hawaii,

426

00:22:59,433 --> 00:23:01,333
and Cleveland, Ohio.

427

00:23:01,433 --> 00:23:06,900
I followed the jobs,
and I had taken Guy along.

428

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,700
-What I remember most when
I think of a childhood memory

429

00:23:10,800 --> 00:23:13,766
is the fact that she would
come to school

430

00:23:13,866 --> 00:23:17,500
wearing her African clothes
and her hair natural.

431

00:23:17,600 --> 00:23:20,433
And some idiot kid in the class
would say,

432

00:23:20,533 --> 00:23:23,200
"Your mama from lost Africa."

433

00:23:23,300 --> 00:23:25,633
And I'd have to pop him.

434

00:23:25,733 --> 00:23:28,866
And then I would come home,

and I would ask my mother,

435

00:23:28,966 --> 00:23:32,700

"Don't you have
a sweater/skirt outfit,

436

00:23:32,800 --> 00:23:35,400

one of those Penny's things?"

437

00:23:35,500 --> 00:23:40,266

And she would say to me,
"This is your history.

438

00:23:40,366 --> 00:23:43,866

You come from kings
and queens."

439

00:23:43,966 --> 00:23:45,933

And I would look at her,
and I would think,

440

00:23:46,033 --> 00:23:49,233

"Yes, it's unfortunate
my mother's demented."

441

00:23:49,333 --> 00:23:51,366

□□

442

00:23:57,266 --> 00:24:01,233

My mother was working
in nightclubs at the time.

443

00:24:03,466 --> 00:24:06,400

-I had got jobs in strip joints.

444

00:24:06,500 --> 00:24:09,100

I didn't strip,
but then I didn't have to.

445

00:24:09,200 --> 00:24:11,900

I had a costumes that was
about big enough

446

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:14,300

to put in the palm of my hand
like that,

447

00:24:14,400 --> 00:24:16,633
so I didn't have
much on to strip.

448
00:24:16,733 --> 00:24:20,300
Bands always wanted to play
for me because I danced.

449
00:24:20,400 --> 00:24:22,633
The other strippers
just walked out and...

450
00:24:22,733 --> 00:24:25,300
□ Tea for two, and two for tea

451
00:24:25,400 --> 00:24:28,333
And take off something
and threw it in the audience.

452
00:24:28,433 --> 00:24:30,933
But I would hit it.

453
00:24:34,200 --> 00:24:38,800
And so I met people
who invited me out and...

454
00:24:38,900 --> 00:24:41,166
And I said,
"Have you heard calypso?"

455
00:24:41,266 --> 00:24:42,366
And they said, "No."

456
00:24:42,466 --> 00:24:46,266
So I sang some calypso --
just a cappella.

457
00:24:46,366 --> 00:24:50,500
And they said, "You should come
and open in the Purple Onion."

458
00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:53,800
So if I would sing, I would make
three times the money,

459
00:24:53,900 --> 00:24:58,166
and so I stopped dancing
as a rule and started singing.

460
00:24:58,266 --> 00:24:59,633
-Maya Angelou!

461
00:24:59,733 --> 00:25:01,466
[Applause]

462
00:25:01,566 --> 00:25:03,366
-I talked some friends of mine

463
00:25:03,466 --> 00:25:07,400
into going to this
little club -- late '50s.

464
00:25:07,500 --> 00:25:13,033
And what I remember
is Maya making her entrance.

465
00:25:13,133 --> 00:25:18,966
Very tall, very grand, no shoes.

466
00:25:19,066 --> 00:25:21,466
-□ Moe and Joe
run the candy store □

467
00:25:21,566 --> 00:25:23,200
□ Telling fortunes
behind the door □

468
00:25:23,300 --> 00:25:27,100
-That she was an original
is certainly an understatement.

469
00:25:27,200 --> 00:25:29,266
-□ He began to shout,
"Run, Joe" □

470
00:25:29,366 --> 00:25:30,866
□ Hey, the man's at the door

471
00:25:30,966 --> 00:25:36,266
-She was exact and refined
with her movements.

472
00:25:36,366 --> 00:25:38,066
She was limbs.

473
00:25:38,166 --> 00:25:41,400
I mean, she was a beautiful
Giacometti sculpture.

474
00:25:41,500 --> 00:25:42,666
-□ So you run, Joe

475
00:25:42,766 --> 00:25:46,433
□ Run, Joe, run, Joe,
run, Joe, run, Joe, oh □

476
00:25:46,533 --> 00:25:50,233
-At the time,
that was the trend in music --

477
00:25:50,333 --> 00:25:53,500
Afro-Caribbean, calypso.

478
00:25:53,600 --> 00:25:57,700
And Maya was known
as Miss Calypso.

479
00:25:57,800 --> 00:26:00,366
-□ Always busy
in the marketplace □

480
00:26:00,466 --> 00:26:02,833
□ Makes me dizzy
in the marketplace □

481
00:26:02,933 --> 00:26:05,766
□ 'Tis a wonder to me
to constantly see □

482
00:26:05,866 --> 00:26:08,733
□ All that happens
in the marketplace □

483
00:26:10,866 --> 00:26:13,566
□ That flower girl
has an innocent face □

484
00:26:13,666 --> 00:26:16,566
□ The most well-bred
in the marketplace □

485
00:26:16,666 --> 00:26:19,066

□ She's a voodoo girl
from dusk till dawn □

486
00:26:19,166 --> 00:26:21,533
□ She'll cast a spell
just for fun □

487
00:26:21,633 --> 00:26:24,233
-The voice was no great voice,

488
00:26:24,333 --> 00:26:26,966
but she knew how to use it.

489
00:26:27,066 --> 00:26:29,733
-□ 'Tis a wonder to me
to constantly see □

490
00:26:29,833 --> 00:26:32,566
□ All that happens
in the marketplace □

491
00:26:32,666 --> 00:26:34,933
-□ All that happens
in the marketplace □

492
00:26:35,033 --> 00:26:37,800
-We had a dance troupe
in Los Angeles

493
00:26:37,900 --> 00:26:39,500
called the
Lester Horton Dancers.

494
00:26:39,600 --> 00:26:42,633
And we heard that we were
to be on a bill

495
00:26:42,733 --> 00:26:48,133
with Maya Angelou in Las Vegas.

496
00:26:48,233 --> 00:26:52,433
Now, this was like '56, '57.

497
00:26:52,533 --> 00:26:58,366
At that time, Lena Horne,
Belafonte, Sammy Davis,

498

00:26:58,466 --> 00:27:01,633

they were all big-name
black performers,

499

00:27:01,733 --> 00:27:04,666

but they couldn't mingle
in the lounges.

500

00:27:04,766 --> 00:27:09,500

They had to perform,
go back to their room.

501

00:27:09,600 --> 00:27:11,633

So when we get to Las Vegas,

502

00:27:11,733 --> 00:27:14,500

we realize that we're
confronting this, you know.

503

00:27:14,600 --> 00:27:17,033

We can't go here,
we can't go there.

504

00:27:17,133 --> 00:27:19,233

I mean, we were
a diverse company.

505

00:27:19,333 --> 00:27:22,833

We were living on
the other side of the tracks.

506

00:27:22,933 --> 00:27:27,500

And there was this little
greasy spoon where we could eat.

507

00:27:27,600 --> 00:27:29,266

We were a young company,

508

00:27:29,366 --> 00:27:32,400

so we looked to Maya
for guidance,

509

00:27:32,500 --> 00:27:34,733

and we followed her lead.

510

00:27:34,833 --> 00:27:38,400

And she didn't protest overtly.

511
00:27:38,500 --> 00:27:42,600
She just, you know,
I guess made mental notes

512
00:27:42,700 --> 00:27:45,400
that this
has got to be corrected.

513
00:27:45,500 --> 00:27:48,033
□□

514
00:27:55,333 --> 00:27:56,766
-Well, "Porgy and Bess"

515
00:27:56,866 --> 00:27:59,700
came and performed
in San Francisco,

516
00:27:59,800 --> 00:28:04,200
and someone told me
they are looking for a dancer.

517
00:28:04,300 --> 00:28:06,500
So I thought, "Mmm!"

518
00:28:06,600 --> 00:28:07,966
And they would pay much more,

519
00:28:08,066 --> 00:28:12,366
and I'd get a chance to travel
around the United States

520
00:28:12,466 --> 00:28:15,733
and maybe get the chance
to go to Europe.

521
00:28:15,833 --> 00:28:19,433
I auditioned for them,
and they accepted me.

522
00:28:19,533 --> 00:28:22,033
I sang the role Ruby,

523
00:28:22,133 --> 00:28:24,233
but the truth is,
I couldn't really sing.

524
00:28:24,333 --> 00:28:27,233
I mean, I could sing,
but I wasn't a trained singer.

525
00:28:27,333 --> 00:28:29,200
I really was a dancer.

526
00:28:29,300 --> 00:28:31,433
And at least once
every two or three weeks,

527
00:28:31,533 --> 00:28:33,200
one of the singers
would say to me,

528
00:28:33,300 --> 00:28:38,333
"Maya, I'm sorry to tell you,
but you flatted that 'G.'"

529
00:28:38,433 --> 00:28:40,900
Or, "You flatted that 'A.'"

530
00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:43,333
I didn't even know
I was singing in the alphabet.

531
00:28:43,433 --> 00:28:45,266
I just sang the role.

532
00:28:45,366 --> 00:28:47,900
-□ How are you this morning?

533
00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:50,666
-It was a wonderful experience

534
00:28:50,766 --> 00:28:53,166
because
we went all over the world.

535
00:28:53,266 --> 00:28:56,233
-□ How are you this morning?

536
00:28:56,333 --> 00:29:02,066
□ Tell me, how are you
on this lovely morning □

537

00:29:02,166 --> 00:29:08,000

□ Today

538

00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:11,900

-We arrived in Morocco,

539

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:14,366

and the conductor
said the company

540

00:29:14,466 --> 00:29:17,100

was about to perform in concert.

541

00:29:17,200 --> 00:29:19,500

So they chose
and they rehearsed,

542

00:29:19,600 --> 00:29:21,833

but I had no aria.

543

00:29:21,933 --> 00:29:25,600

So I told the conductor --
Alexander Smallens,

544

00:29:25,700 --> 00:29:27,633

and he was Russian.

545

00:29:27,733 --> 00:29:29,833

When I told him
I have no aria, he said,

546

00:29:29,933 --> 00:29:35,366

"But don't you at least know
one spiritual?"

547

00:29:35,466 --> 00:29:37,433

And I thought,
"Is grits groceries?

548

00:29:37,533 --> 00:29:38,866

Do I know a spiritual?

549

00:29:38,966 --> 00:29:41,000

What?"

550

00:29:41,100 --> 00:29:43,266

And I just grinned...

551
00:29:43,366 --> 00:29:46,633
and thought about
Stamps, Arkansas,

552
00:29:46,733 --> 00:29:49,033
where from the time I was 3,

553
00:29:49,133 --> 00:29:51,933
Mama took me
to church on Sunday.

554
00:29:52,033 --> 00:29:55,166
Then on Monday evening,
we went to missionary meeting.

555
00:29:55,266 --> 00:29:57,066
Tuesday evening,
usher boy meeting.

556
00:29:57,166 --> 00:29:58,800
Wednesday evening,
prayer meeting.

557
00:29:58,900 --> 00:30:00,833
Thursday evening,
choir practice.

558
00:30:00,933 --> 00:30:03,333
We went to church
every -- all the time.

559
00:30:03,433 --> 00:30:06,033
And at all those
meetings, we sang.

560
00:30:06,133 --> 00:30:08,433
So I told the man,
"Yes, I know a spiritual."

561
00:30:08,533 --> 00:30:12,133
So I stood on the stage
alone and sang...

562
00:30:12,233 --> 00:30:20,066
□ I am a poor pilgrim
of sorrow □

563
00:30:20,166 --> 00:30:27,333
I'm lost in this wide world
alone

564
00:30:27,433 --> 00:30:28,366
I sang her song.

565
00:30:28,466 --> 00:30:31,400
When I finished,
4,500 Arabs jumped up

566
00:30:31,500 --> 00:30:33,266
and hit the floor
and started to shout...

567
00:30:33,366 --> 00:30:36,066
[Speaking foreign language]

568
00:30:36,166 --> 00:30:39,933
And I looked stage right
at the wings

569
00:30:40,033 --> 00:30:41,166
where the singers had sung.

570
00:30:41,266 --> 00:30:43,833
And they were
looking at me like...

571
00:30:43,933 --> 00:30:46,566
So I said, "I'm sorry.
I mean, you sang Puccini

572
00:30:46,666 --> 00:30:49,066
and Bach
and Beethoven and Haydn,

573
00:30:49,166 --> 00:30:53,133
and I sang what W.E.B. Du Bois
called the "Sorrow Songs."

574
00:30:53,233 --> 00:30:56,100
Songs written not by a free
and easy people,

575
00:30:56,200 --> 00:30:58,500
not by a leisure class,

576
00:30:58,600 --> 00:31:01,066
songs written
from the heart,

577
00:31:01,166 --> 00:31:03,166
written with their blood,

578
00:31:03,266 --> 00:31:05,333
written with the whips
and the lash on their back.

579
00:31:05,433 --> 00:31:09,100
When I sung these songs, the
people couldn't stop screaming.

580
00:31:09,200 --> 00:31:11,966
Then I began to think,
"Aw, I see.

581
00:31:12,066 --> 00:31:13,600
Now I see.

582
00:31:13,700 --> 00:31:15,600
When the people
were passing out

583
00:31:15,700 --> 00:31:18,366
the big packets
of land and money,

584
00:31:18,466 --> 00:31:22,000
my people had none
of that to give me."

585
00:31:22,100 --> 00:31:24,533
But what they gave me --
Look at what they gave me.

586
00:31:24,633 --> 00:31:27,966
My Lord!
Look at what they gave me.

587
00:31:28,066 --> 00:31:31,100
It opens doors for me
all over the world.

588

00:31:31,200 --> 00:31:32,933

It's a great blessing.

589

00:31:33,033 --> 00:31:34,900

So I ask you for your prayers.

590

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:38,600

The horrible thing for me
was I had left my son.

591

00:31:38,700 --> 00:31:41,866

I'd left my son.

592

00:31:41,966 --> 00:31:44,533

And I called him
at least once a week.

593

00:31:44,633 --> 00:31:48,033

And we'd talk
and cry on the phone.

594

00:31:48,133 --> 00:31:50,666

It was terrible.
I felt so guilty.

595

00:31:50,766 --> 00:31:54,133

He didn't know
how I loved him.

596

00:31:54,233 --> 00:31:57,533

And, finally, when I got home
and saw Guy Johnson,

597

00:31:57,633 --> 00:32:03,366

oh, my land, the reunion
was so sweet.

598

00:32:03,466 --> 00:32:05,866

There was a play
opening in New York,

599

00:32:05,966 --> 00:32:10,466

and I was asked to come
to New York and to audition.

600

00:32:10,566 --> 00:32:15,400

-My mother had a chance
to do the understudy

601
00:32:15,500 --> 00:32:17,433
in "Hello, Dolly!"

602
00:32:17,533 --> 00:32:20,466
with Pearl Bailey
as the lead.

603
00:32:20,566 --> 00:32:21,866
For my mother,

604
00:32:21,966 --> 00:32:23,966
it would have meant

605
00:32:24,066 --> 00:32:26,800
living continuously in New York

606
00:32:26,900 --> 00:32:31,466
without leaving me
for at least a year.

607
00:32:31,566 --> 00:32:35,433
And it was regular money.

608
00:32:35,533 --> 00:32:40,933
The director and the producer
both loved her.

609
00:32:41,033 --> 00:32:45,833
But Pearl Bailey came back
and said, "Oh, no.

610
00:32:45,933 --> 00:32:50,766
I ain't gonna have this big,
old ugly girl be my understudy."

611
00:32:50,866 --> 00:32:52,666
There were very few times
in my life

612
00:32:52,766 --> 00:32:57,033
that I remember
my mother crying.

613
00:32:57,133 --> 00:32:59,966
Because this meant she had
to go back out on the road

614
00:33:00,066 --> 00:33:02,233
and find other work.

615
00:33:02,333 --> 00:33:04,900
It was devastating.

616
00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:06,800
Because I knew
all the sacrifices

617
00:33:06,900 --> 00:33:11,500
my mother made to keep me.

618
00:33:11,600 --> 00:33:15,300
35 years later,
when Pearl Bailey

619
00:33:15,400 --> 00:33:18,066
was getting a lifetime award
and they asked her,

620
00:33:18,166 --> 00:33:21,533
"Who do you want
to give it to you?"

621
00:33:21,633 --> 00:33:24,800
she said, "Maya Angelou."

622
00:33:24,900 --> 00:33:28,366
And guess who gave it to her
and never said a damn thing!

623
00:33:34,133 --> 00:33:35,733
-For the next year and a half,

624
00:33:35,833 --> 00:33:39,533
save for my short
out-of-town singing engagements,

625
00:33:39,633 --> 00:33:41,366
I began to write.

626
00:33:41,466 --> 00:33:44,666
At first, I limited myself
to short sketches,

627
00:33:44,766 --> 00:33:46,266
then to song lyrics.

628
00:33:46,366 --> 00:33:48,700
Then I dared short stories.

629
00:33:48,800 --> 00:33:52,066
I had met Langston Hughes
in California.

630
00:33:52,166 --> 00:33:53,800
And John Killens.

631
00:33:53,900 --> 00:33:55,900
And they both said
because I was writing,

632
00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:58,166
they said, "Come to New York.

633
00:33:58,266 --> 00:34:00,966
Come to New York and join
the Harlem Writers Guild."

634
00:34:01,066 --> 00:34:02,666
Let us criticize you

635
00:34:02,766 --> 00:34:05,266
and tell you how good you are
or how bad you are,

636
00:34:05,366 --> 00:34:06,433
and we'll see."

637
00:34:06,533 --> 00:34:08,733
[]

638
00:34:16,833 --> 00:34:18,533
-Playwrights and writers
have all gone

639
00:34:18,633 --> 00:34:20,566
through
the Harlem Writers Guild.

640
00:34:20,666 --> 00:34:22,199

People ask what was going on.

641

00:34:22,300 --> 00:34:23,566

We were just writing,

642

00:34:23,666 --> 00:34:26,466

trying to get our work
written and published.

643

00:34:26,566 --> 00:34:28,433

Then you come to the group,

644

00:34:28,533 --> 00:34:30,866

and what you want
is the criticism.

645

00:34:30,966 --> 00:34:33,199

And the criticism
is always constructive.

646

00:34:33,300 --> 00:34:34,966

You don't want to go out
and tear the thing up

647

00:34:35,066 --> 00:34:38,600

and throw yourself
into the river, you know.

648

00:34:38,699 --> 00:34:40,866

-And, of course, Lewis Michaux
had Michaux's Bookstore,

649

00:34:40,966 --> 00:34:43,166

125th and 7th.

650

00:34:43,266 --> 00:34:47,666

And that was a very,
very important place.

651

00:34:47,766 --> 00:34:51,699

Maya, Rosa Guy,
Louise Meriwether.

652

00:34:51,800 --> 00:34:55,933

-Max Roach, Paule Marshall
was there in that group.

653

00:34:56,033 --> 00:34:58,833
I must say that we loved bars.
All of us loved bars.

654
00:34:58,933 --> 00:35:02,266
Me, Rosa, Maya,
we were barstool people.

655
00:35:04,300 --> 00:35:06,733
Right on the corner
of 96th Street

656
00:35:06,833 --> 00:35:09,500
and Columbus Avenue was a grill,

657
00:35:09,600 --> 00:35:13,400
and James Baldwin's brother
worked there as a bartender.

658
00:35:13,500 --> 00:35:16,500
James Baldwin was never
in the Harlem Writers Guild.

659
00:35:16,600 --> 00:35:18,633
He was, you know, in France,

660
00:35:18,733 --> 00:35:20,500
but any time
he would be in town,

661
00:35:20,600 --> 00:35:22,333
he would be at that bar.

662
00:35:24,700 --> 00:35:30,500
-I first met James Baldwin
in Paris in the early '50s.

663
00:35:30,600 --> 00:35:33,466
I was with "Porgy and Bess."

664
00:35:33,566 --> 00:35:36,933
When I met him,
he was small and...

665
00:35:37,033 --> 00:35:38,866
hot.

666

00:35:38,966 --> 00:35:40,266
Dancing himself.

667
00:35:40,366 --> 00:35:42,166
I mean, his movements
were always

668
00:35:42,266 --> 00:35:44,433
the movements of a dancer.

669
00:35:44,533 --> 00:35:51,266
So when I met Jimmy,
well, we liked each other.

670
00:35:51,366 --> 00:35:55,733
-I remember the respect
that they gave one another.

671
00:35:55,833 --> 00:35:57,666
The excitement that they both
are expressing themselves,

672
00:35:57,766 --> 00:35:59,900
they're both brilliant
people in a room.

673
00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:04,033
After a couple of drinks,
saying what they really feel.

674
00:36:04,133 --> 00:36:08,833
-I'm a kind of poet
and I come out of...

675
00:36:08,933 --> 00:36:11,533
a certain place, a certain time,
a certain history.

676
00:36:11,633 --> 00:36:12,866
-Right.
-You know?

677
00:36:12,966 --> 00:36:14,700
-Right.
-And the people who reduce me...

678
00:36:14,800 --> 00:36:21,066
-James Baldwin was merely

my mother's friend Jimmy.

679

00:36:21,166 --> 00:36:25,666

I had no idea the majesty
of his work at the time.

680

00:36:25,766 --> 00:36:29,033

What I recall is my mother
coming home

681

00:36:29,133 --> 00:36:31,366

after conversations with him

682

00:36:31,466 --> 00:36:34,233

and talking about
what she was going to do

683

00:36:34,333 --> 00:36:37,400

as a result
of having met with him.

684

00:36:37,500 --> 00:36:39,500

-What Jimmy was was angry.

685

00:36:39,600 --> 00:36:41,333

He was angry at injustice,

686

00:36:41,433 --> 00:36:44,266

at ignorance, at exploitation,

687

00:36:44,366 --> 00:36:47,466

at stupidity, at vulgarity.

688

00:36:47,566 --> 00:36:48,966

Yes, he was angry.

689

00:36:49,066 --> 00:36:51,500

-I don't know what most white
people in this country feel.

690

00:36:51,600 --> 00:36:52,833

I can only conclude

691

00:36:52,933 --> 00:36:55,333

what they feel from the state
of their institutions.

692
00:36:55,433 --> 00:36:56,800
I don't know whether
the labor unions

693
00:36:56,900 --> 00:36:59,166
and their bosses really hate me.

694
00:36:59,266 --> 00:37:02,066
That doesn't matter, but I know
I'm not in their unions.

695
00:37:02,166 --> 00:37:04,866
I don't know if the board
of education hates black people,

696
00:37:04,966 --> 00:37:07,433
but I know the textbooks
they give my children to read

697
00:37:07,533 --> 00:37:09,133
and the schools
that we have to go to.

698
00:37:09,233 --> 00:37:11,166
Now, this is the evidence.

699
00:37:11,266 --> 00:37:14,833
You want me to make an act
of faith on some idealism

700
00:37:14,933 --> 00:37:16,766
which you assure me
exists in America,

701
00:37:16,866 --> 00:37:18,900
which I have never seen.

702
00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:19,933
-Wait a minute.

703
00:37:20,033 --> 00:37:22,333
[Applause]

704
00:37:22,433 --> 00:37:26,166
-It was the awakening summer
of 1960,

705
00:37:26,266 --> 00:37:28,766
and the entire country
was in labor.

706
00:37:28,866 --> 00:37:31,366
Something wonderful was
about to be born,

707
00:37:31,466 --> 00:37:33,466
and we were all going
to be good parents

708
00:37:33,566 --> 00:37:35,900
to the welcome child.

709
00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:37,433
Its name was freedom.

710
00:37:37,533 --> 00:37:39,666
-We have no alternative

711
00:37:39,766 --> 00:37:42,666
but to keep moving
with determination.

712
00:37:44,700 --> 00:37:48,700
We've gone too far now
to turn back.

713
00:37:48,800 --> 00:37:50,900
-Dr. King came to New York

714
00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:54,866
to speak at Riverside Church.

715
00:37:54,966 --> 00:37:57,766
And I went with friends,
and we were so moved.

716
00:37:57,866 --> 00:38:00,300
He was just --
He was irresistible.

717
00:38:00,400 --> 00:38:03,666
And his idea of nonviolence

718

00:38:03,766 --> 00:38:08,233
was absolutely what
I had been waiting for.

719
00:38:08,333 --> 00:38:10,533
I had lived around
so much violence

720
00:38:10,633 --> 00:38:12,866
and been myself violated.

721
00:38:12,966 --> 00:38:15,400
And when Reverend King
came and said,

722
00:38:15,500 --> 00:38:19,200
"We can change the world
with nonviolence,"

723
00:38:19,300 --> 00:38:23,333
it was like pouring water
on a parched desert.

724
00:38:23,433 --> 00:38:26,066
I needed that,
and I was ready for it.

725
00:38:26,166 --> 00:38:29,433
And so I and Godfrey Cambridge,
a comedian,

726
00:38:29,533 --> 00:38:33,733
wrote a piece called "Cabaret
for Freedom" to raise money.

727
00:38:33,833 --> 00:38:35,100
And we gave it to the

728
00:38:35,200 --> 00:38:39,166
Southern Christian Leadership
Conference in New York.

729
00:38:39,266 --> 00:38:43,366
Bayard Rustin suggested
that I be asked to come in

730
00:38:43,466 --> 00:38:45,466
as the northern coordinator

731
00:38:45,566 --> 00:38:48,966
of the Southern Christian
Leadership Conference.

732
00:38:49,066 --> 00:38:50,366
And Reverend King came,

733
00:38:50,466 --> 00:38:53,200
and he reminded me
of my brother.

734
00:38:53,300 --> 00:38:55,433
Small...

735
00:38:55,533 --> 00:38:58,033
beautiful speaking voice.

736
00:38:58,133 --> 00:39:01,400
So when Dr. King
sat in my office,

737
00:39:01,500 --> 00:39:03,233
he became a big brother.

738
00:39:03,333 --> 00:39:05,300
I became a little girl again.

739
00:39:06,733 --> 00:39:09,866
□□

740
00:39:09,966 --> 00:39:11,900
When Harlem became politicized,

741
00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:14,066
really politicized in the '50s

742
00:39:14,166 --> 00:39:17,800
and '60s, it was so amazing.

743
00:39:19,666 --> 00:39:22,233
-It was a crazy time in Harlem.

744
00:39:22,333 --> 00:39:26,200
Mr. Michaux's bookshop was right
in the middle of everything.

745
00:39:26,300 --> 00:39:28,900
He'd have 500 people out
in front of his bookshop

746
00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:30,700
as they'd be talking.

747
00:39:30,800 --> 00:39:35,666
And I didn't know it was
the precursor to Malcolm.

748
00:39:35,766 --> 00:39:38,600
-When America says,
"In God we trust,"

749
00:39:38,700 --> 00:39:41,733
she means she trusts
in a white God

750
00:39:41,833 --> 00:39:43,666
who showed her
how to steal this country

751
00:39:43,766 --> 00:39:46,066
from the dark-skinned Indians.

752
00:39:46,166 --> 00:39:48,066
Who showed her
how to kidnap you and me

753
00:39:48,166 --> 00:39:51,533
and bring us over here
and make us slaves.

754
00:39:51,633 --> 00:39:53,966
When I use the term "God,"

755
00:39:54,066 --> 00:39:56,666
I'm speaking about our God,

756
00:39:56,766 --> 00:39:59,166
the God of our forefathers.

757
00:39:59,266 --> 00:40:02,633
The black man's God.

758
00:40:02,733 --> 00:40:05,133
-At the time, I was
this young actor, you know.

759
00:40:05,233 --> 00:40:06,566
I'd done "A Raisin in the Sun,"

760
00:40:06,666 --> 00:40:08,733
and I had started
at the age of 17.

761
00:40:08,833 --> 00:40:11,433
I didn't have any racial
consciousness or anything.

762
00:40:11,533 --> 00:40:14,800
So that deep abiding culture,

763
00:40:14,900 --> 00:40:16,600
Maya was responsible
for teaching me

764
00:40:16,700 --> 00:40:18,466
why I should be upset,

765
00:40:18,566 --> 00:40:20,666
why I should know
more about my roots.

766
00:40:20,766 --> 00:40:22,866
And I eavesdropped a lot,

767
00:40:22,966 --> 00:40:26,100
and I sat around her
to listen to her

768
00:40:26,200 --> 00:40:27,533
and her contemporaries.

769
00:40:27,633 --> 00:40:29,266
And I saw her with Malcolm X

770
00:40:29,366 --> 00:40:32,300
from time to time
and people like that.

771

00:40:32,400 --> 00:40:34,933

But I remember her
being very angry.

772

00:40:35,033 --> 00:40:38,200

Very angry -- to tears --

773

00:40:38,300 --> 00:40:40,066

because she was
fighting the devil,

774

00:40:40,166 --> 00:40:42,000

the white devil,
as she called it.

775

00:40:42,100 --> 00:40:45,066

[Drums playing]

776

00:40:45,166 --> 00:40:48,966

It was the time
of afros, dashikis,

777

00:40:49,066 --> 00:40:55,066

the re-establishment of the
African-American black roots.

778

00:40:55,166 --> 00:40:58,066

-Many African-Americans
made friends with Africans

779

00:40:58,166 --> 00:41:00,733

who had come to
the United Nations.

780

00:41:00,833 --> 00:41:02,800

They got whiskey and drinks

781

00:41:02,900 --> 00:41:06,800

and invited African-Americans
to the parties.

782

00:41:06,900 --> 00:41:10,266

It was wonderful.
We made friends.

783

00:41:10,366 --> 00:41:12,166

-Now that Africa
is getting independent

784
00:41:12,266 --> 00:41:13,933
and in the position
to create its own image,

785
00:41:14,033 --> 00:41:16,366
those of us in the West look
at the African image

786
00:41:16,466 --> 00:41:17,900
and see how positive it is.

787
00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:19,433
We begin to identify with it.

788
00:41:19,533 --> 00:41:21,500
We become proud
of our African blood,

789
00:41:21,600 --> 00:41:22,900
our African heritage.

790
00:41:23,000 --> 00:41:25,500
And your Western imperialists
and colonialists

791
00:41:25,600 --> 00:41:28,033
consider this to be
a grave threat.

792
00:41:28,133 --> 00:41:32,700
-And then we heard
that Patrice Lumumba

793
00:41:32,800 --> 00:41:37,400
from the Congo had been killed.

794
00:41:37,500 --> 00:41:40,800
-This was Patrice Lumumba
in June 1960,

795
00:41:40,900 --> 00:41:43,000
the premier of the new
Congo Republic,

796
00:41:43,100 --> 00:41:44,166
waiting for the ceremonies

797
00:41:44,266 --> 00:41:46,366
that would mark
Congolese independence.

798
00:41:46,466 --> 00:41:48,333
Less than two weeks
in the future,

799
00:41:48,433 --> 00:41:50,133
lay the army mutiny
that would plunge

800
00:41:50,233 --> 00:41:51,666
the Congo into near chaos.

801
00:41:51,766 --> 00:41:53,400
Colonel Joseph Mobutu,

802
00:41:53,500 --> 00:41:54,833
whose forces seized Lumumba

803
00:41:54,933 --> 00:41:57,700
at the beginning of December.

804
00:41:57,800 --> 00:42:02,100
-And African-Americans took it
as if Patrice Lumumba

805
00:42:02,200 --> 00:42:04,766
was, in fact,
an African-American

806
00:42:04,866 --> 00:42:06,900
right off 125th Street.

807
00:42:10,066 --> 00:42:12,000
We started asking
people in Harlem

808
00:42:12,100 --> 00:42:17,733
to come down to United Nations
and protest --

809
00:42:17,833 --> 00:42:21,333
people who had never been down
to Times Square,

810
00:42:21,433 --> 00:42:23,766
people born in Harlem
full of anger

811
00:42:23,866 --> 00:42:27,933
at the way Africans
were treated on their homeland.

812
00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:34,466
We filled the General Assembly
at United Nations.

813
00:42:34,566 --> 00:42:37,133
Adlai Stevenson was at the desk.

814
00:42:37,233 --> 00:42:40,233
-We believe that the only way
to keep the Cold War

815
00:42:40,333 --> 00:42:41,466
out of the Congo

816
00:42:41,566 --> 00:42:44,833
is to keep the United Nations
in the Congo.

817
00:42:44,933 --> 00:42:49,200
-And at one point,
Rosa Guy's sister screamed,

818
00:42:49,300 --> 00:42:52,433
"Murderer!"
at the top of her voice.

819
00:42:52,533 --> 00:42:54,866
[Indistinct shouting]

820
00:42:57,300 --> 00:43:00,400
Whereupon all the people
got up and started fighting.

821
00:43:02,800 --> 00:43:05,266
-The speech was interrupted by
a well-organized demonstration

822
00:43:05,366 --> 00:43:08,266

in the gallery.

823

00:43:08,366 --> 00:43:10,100

Most of the group
are American Negroes,

824

00:43:10,200 --> 00:43:14,766

members of African nationalist
groups in New York.

825

00:43:14,866 --> 00:43:19,200

-My mother taught me
a love of justice.

826

00:43:19,300 --> 00:43:21,600

A love of doing what's right.

827

00:43:21,700 --> 00:43:23,366

She said to me,

828

00:43:23,466 --> 00:43:27,200

"If you really have
something to protest,

829

00:43:27,300 --> 00:43:30,166

you should be on the streets."

830

00:43:30,266 --> 00:43:32,766

My mother was leading
this demonstration,

831

00:43:32,866 --> 00:43:34,766

and I was with her.

832

00:43:34,866 --> 00:43:37,666

We were protesting
the damage done

833

00:43:37,766 --> 00:43:39,666

to people in the South

834

00:43:39,766 --> 00:43:43,266

who had gone down there
for the freedom riots.

835

00:43:43,366 --> 00:43:46,500

And we had about 400 people.

836
00:43:46,600 --> 00:43:49,933
Three blocks away,
the mounted police

837
00:43:50,033 --> 00:43:54,033
pull into the street,
in formation.

838
00:43:54,133 --> 00:43:59,566
People in the demonstration
began going to the sidewalk.

839
00:43:59,666 --> 00:44:01,900
Because in those days,
they ran over people.

840
00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:04,333
They stomped them,
trampled them,

841
00:44:04,433 --> 00:44:06,866
and left their bodies
in the street.

842
00:44:08,900 --> 00:44:13,466
And I was looking at my mother,
and we kept going.

843
00:44:13,566 --> 00:44:16,666
And I said, "Ma, come on.
You're gonna get us killed.

844
00:44:16,766 --> 00:44:17,933
Let's go!"

845
00:44:18,033 --> 00:44:20,666
She turned to me, and she said,

846
00:44:20,766 --> 00:44:25,300
"One person standing on the Word
of God is the majority."

847
00:44:25,400 --> 00:44:30,500
I looked at her, and I thought,
"You really have gone crazy."

848

00:44:30,600 --> 00:44:32,433

By the time the police
got to us,

849

00:44:32,533 --> 00:44:35,066

there was probably eight
or nine people

850

00:44:35,166 --> 00:44:38,000

out of the 400 behind us.

851

00:44:38,100 --> 00:44:42,133

The sergeant in charge
started to walk past us.

852

00:44:42,233 --> 00:44:47,066

My mother pulled out this
big hairpin out of her headband

853

00:44:47,166 --> 00:44:50,333

and stuck it
in the sergeant's horse.

854

00:44:50,433 --> 00:44:53,833

The sergeant's horse
neighed, reared up.

855

00:44:53,933 --> 00:44:56,100

The sergeant fell off.

856

00:44:56,200 --> 00:44:59,200

The people came back
from the sidewalk,

857

00:44:59,300 --> 00:45:01,533

and we finished that march.

858

00:45:02,666 --> 00:45:05,200

Whew!

859

00:45:05,300 --> 00:45:07,800

Hadn't seen courage like that...

860

00:45:07,900 --> 00:45:11,366

brought right up to my face.

861

00:45:11,466 --> 00:45:13,700

She took me on a trip or two.

862

00:45:17,300 --> 00:45:21,266

-I first saw Maya in 1961

863

00:45:21,366 --> 00:45:25,400

at the St. Mark's Theater
in the Village when she played

864

00:45:25,500 --> 00:45:27,900

in Genet's "The Blacks."

865

00:45:28,000 --> 00:45:34,066

-"The Blacks" was a piece
that really shook everyone.

866

00:45:34,166 --> 00:45:38,466

It started avant-garde theater
in this country.

867

00:45:38,566 --> 00:45:41,000

-That was a play
whose time had come.

868

00:45:41,100 --> 00:45:43,333

The British took over
all the theaters on Broadway.

869

00:45:43,433 --> 00:45:44,833

There was "My Fair Lady,"

870

00:45:44,933 --> 00:45:47,266

"Hamlet," "Separate Tables,"

871

00:45:47,366 --> 00:45:49,500

and off-Broadway began
with the Edward Albees

872

00:45:49,600 --> 00:45:52,366

and the Carol Burnett
and "Once Upon a Mattress."

873

00:45:52,466 --> 00:45:55,300

And we got together in 1960,

874

00:45:55,400 --> 00:45:58,500

and we did Jean Genet's

production of "Le Negras" --

875

00:45:58,600 --> 00:45:59,900
"The Blacks."

876

00:46:00,000 --> 00:46:05,266
-Genet set aside six actors
who were black,

877

00:46:05,366 --> 00:46:08,866
six actors who were also black

878

00:46:08,966 --> 00:46:14,300
but wore white masks,
representing the whites.

879

00:46:14,400 --> 00:46:16,100
-And we held
the audience hostage.

880

00:46:16,200 --> 00:46:17,933
It was a play within a play.

881

00:46:18,033 --> 00:46:19,633
And there was
a little subterfuge

882

00:46:19,733 --> 00:46:22,166
in the ushers
and the usherettes.

883

00:46:22,266 --> 00:46:26,566
They were put into this ambiance
even before the play started,

884

00:46:26,666 --> 00:46:28,933
that they were going
to lock the doors.

885

00:46:29,033 --> 00:46:32,666
And it finally started
with a waltz,

886

00:46:32,766 --> 00:46:34,933
mocking them,
and then all of a sudden,

887

00:46:35,033 --> 00:46:36,866
Roscoe Lee Browne would say,

888
00:46:36,966 --> 00:46:39,800
"Ladies and gentlemen," and the
entire cast would go [Laughs]

889
00:46:39,900 --> 00:46:41,733
And that started
the whole thing.

890
00:46:41,833 --> 00:46:42,933
And people were just,

891
00:46:43,033 --> 00:46:45,066
"What kind of play
have we come to see here?"

892
00:46:45,166 --> 00:46:47,200
-But there was
Roscoe Lee Browne,

893
00:46:47,300 --> 00:46:51,166
James Earl Jones,
Cicely Tyson,

894
00:46:51,266 --> 00:46:53,033
Lou Gossett.

895
00:46:53,133 --> 00:46:57,400
-Godfrey Cambridge,
Charles Gordon,

896
00:46:57,500 --> 00:46:59,766
and, of course, Maya Angelou.

897
00:46:59,866 --> 00:47:01,633
She had her natural,

898
00:47:01,733 --> 00:47:04,133
and she was an angry
black woman,

899
00:47:04,233 --> 00:47:06,633
you know, but so intelligent.

900
00:47:06,733 --> 00:47:08,633

And she played the white queen.

901
00:47:08,733 --> 00:47:10,700
The combination
of Queen Elizabeth

902
00:47:10,800 --> 00:47:15,033
and all of the white female
royalty of Europe.

903
00:47:15,133 --> 00:47:16,833
One of her lines was,

904
00:47:16,933 --> 00:47:18,866
"I am the lily-white
queen of the West,

905
00:47:18,966 --> 00:47:21,500
centuries and centuries
of breeding."

906
00:47:21,600 --> 00:47:25,233
And it raised the consciousness
of race to such a degree

907
00:47:25,333 --> 00:47:28,366
that it's called
the theater of the absurd.

908
00:47:28,466 --> 00:47:32,200
Racism is absurd.

909
00:47:32,300 --> 00:47:35,833
-Maya being an extremely
political person

910
00:47:35,933 --> 00:47:40,333
and very ensconced
in her blackness,

911
00:47:40,433 --> 00:47:42,600
to be playing the white queen

912
00:47:42,700 --> 00:47:46,033
was quite fascinating
to most people.

913

00:47:46,133 --> 00:47:49,500

But she had the carriage
and the grandeur

914

00:47:49,600 --> 00:47:53,300
of the white, pompous woman.

915

00:47:53,400 --> 00:47:55,400

-It's interesting
that black people

916

00:47:55,500 --> 00:47:57,433
can play white people --

917

00:47:57,533 --> 00:47:59,066
the good and the bad,

918

00:47:59,166 --> 00:48:00,600
because we've had centuries

919

00:48:00,700 --> 00:48:03,133
of having to study their faces.

920

00:48:03,233 --> 00:48:08,833
Understand that a smile could
mean you get flogged today.

921

00:48:08,933 --> 00:48:10,766
Or a frown can mean

922

00:48:10,866 --> 00:48:14,733
I'm selling you off
to Mississippi, you see?

923

00:48:14,833 --> 00:48:18,200
-The whites, of course,
reigned above.

924

00:48:18,300 --> 00:48:23,266
They were on a ramp
that was six feet into the air.

925

00:48:23,366 --> 00:48:26,500
The blacks were on the ground.

926

00:48:26,600 --> 00:48:31,133
And each one of the whites

would come down the ramp

927

00:48:31,233 --> 00:48:34,833
and offer their objections

928

00:48:34,933 --> 00:48:37,800
to blacks even existing.

929

00:48:39,866 --> 00:48:41,733
And as it happened,

930

00:48:41,833 --> 00:48:44,966
they were killed by the blacks.

931

00:48:45,066 --> 00:48:47,066
Each one of them.

932

00:48:47,166 --> 00:48:52,100
And as the they descended,
the blacks ascended.

933

00:48:52,200 --> 00:48:55,166
And they took power.

934

00:48:57,300 --> 00:48:59,266
-Some whites got up
and walked out.

935

00:48:59,366 --> 00:49:02,366
Some blacks got up
and walked out.

936

00:49:02,466 --> 00:49:06,566
-Well, I think it brought
to mind for the first time

937

00:49:06,666 --> 00:49:08,366
to many white people

938

00:49:08,466 --> 00:49:11,633
that they were responsible

939

00:49:11,733 --> 00:49:15,566
for most of our anguish

940

00:49:15,666 --> 00:49:18,533

because of their ignorance.

941

00:49:18,633 --> 00:49:20,500

It was quite interesting

942

00:49:20,600 --> 00:49:23,233

to see people

jump up and run out.

943

00:49:23,333 --> 00:49:26,100

One man was running so fast,

944

00:49:26,200 --> 00:49:28,100

he fell down the stairs

and broke his leg.

945

00:49:28,200 --> 00:49:31,233

-One woman fainted,

and a man had a heart attack.

946

00:49:31,333 --> 00:49:33,966

-I remember walking out

of that play

947

00:49:34,066 --> 00:49:37,533

and being ashamed

of being white.

948

00:49:37,633 --> 00:49:42,166

I was so taken by its polemic.

949

00:49:42,266 --> 00:49:44,566

-At the time, Maya was searching

950

00:49:44,666 --> 00:49:46,533

desperately for her

African roots

951

00:49:46,633 --> 00:49:48,400

upon whose shoulders she stood.

952

00:49:48,500 --> 00:49:52,833

Maya met Vus Make

at the United Nations.

953

00:49:52,933 --> 00:49:55,533

An attraction ensued.

954
00:49:55,633 --> 00:49:58,366
-I went to John Killens' house
one evening,

955
00:49:58,466 --> 00:50:01,700
and there was a South African,
a freedom fighter.

956
00:50:01,800 --> 00:50:07,400
And I've always been a patsy
for men who could think.

957
00:50:07,500 --> 00:50:08,533
Oh, goodness!

958
00:50:08,633 --> 00:50:11,866
And this man just
opened up his brain.

959
00:50:11,966 --> 00:50:14,300
[Trills tongue]
He was fabulous.

960
00:50:14,400 --> 00:50:16,433
-Well, I thought
it was very odd.

961
00:50:16,533 --> 00:50:19,000
[Laughs]

962
00:50:19,100 --> 00:50:22,233
But I remember when
she was introduced to him.

963
00:50:22,333 --> 00:50:25,400
Here was this Maya,
up here at eight feet tall,

964
00:50:25,500 --> 00:50:26,900
and here he was, right?

965
00:50:27,000 --> 00:50:31,200
And she took him
by the collar and...

966
00:50:31,300 --> 00:50:33,400

and she --

967

00:50:33,500 --> 00:50:38,566
she kissed him in the mouth
and said, "You're gonna be my..."

968

00:50:38,666 --> 00:50:41,033
husband!"

969

00:50:41,133 --> 00:50:43,633
And he was.
[Laughs]

970

00:50:43,733 --> 00:50:47,300
-You know, at one point
after I married him,

971

00:50:47,400 --> 00:50:50,566
I went back to my house
in Brooklyn,

972

00:50:50,666 --> 00:50:54,066
and the landlady's name
was Mrs. Fitzgerald.

973

00:50:54,166 --> 00:50:57,333
So I said, "Mrs. Fitzgerald,
I've come with my husband."

974

00:50:57,433 --> 00:51:00,266
And she said,
"He's got a beautiful face,

975

00:51:00,366 --> 00:51:02,866
but he fat, ain't he?"

976

00:51:02,966 --> 00:51:05,266
So I said,
"No, ma'am, he's stout.

977

00:51:05,366 --> 00:51:07,400
He's not fat."

978

00:51:07,500 --> 00:51:10,533
She said, "He fat."

979

00:51:10,633 --> 00:51:13,400

And then I walked back
into the living room,

980
00:51:13,500 --> 00:51:15,666
and I saw him.
He was fat.

981
00:51:15,766 --> 00:51:18,000
[Laughs]

982
00:51:18,100 --> 00:51:20,133
But I never thought a person,

983
00:51:20,233 --> 00:51:24,266
how he looks that
that was who he was.

984
00:51:24,366 --> 00:51:27,266
-She learned a lot from Vus.

985
00:51:27,366 --> 00:51:31,033
He was an astute,
brilliant politician.

986
00:51:31,133 --> 00:51:33,566
A brilliant guy all around.

987
00:51:33,666 --> 00:51:37,800
And lovable personality.

988
00:51:37,900 --> 00:51:40,100
- "Miss Angelou,
when I left exile,

989
00:51:40,200 --> 00:51:41,633
I came to the U.S.

990
00:51:41,733 --> 00:51:43,666
with the intention
of finding a strong,

991
00:51:43,766 --> 00:51:45,633
beautiful black American woman

992
00:51:45,733 --> 00:51:48,966
who would be a helpmate,
who understood the struggle,

993
00:51:49,066 --> 00:51:52,200
and who was not afraid
of a fight."

994
00:51:52,300 --> 00:51:55,233
He reached across the table
and took my hand.

995
00:51:55,333 --> 00:51:59,733
"You are exactly what I dreamed
on my long march --

996
00:51:59,833 --> 00:52:03,900
tall and clear-eyed,
ready to fight,

997
00:52:04,000 --> 00:52:05,933
and needing protection."

998
00:52:06,033 --> 00:52:08,733
Which meant I was
as good as married

999
00:52:08,833 --> 00:52:11,833
and on my way
to live in Africa.

1000
00:52:15,066 --> 00:52:18,800
Our plane landed at Cairo
on a clear afternoon.

1001
00:52:18,900 --> 00:52:21,000
And just beyond the windows,

1002
00:52:21,100 --> 00:52:24,366
the Sahara was
a rippling beige sea

1003
00:52:24,466 --> 00:52:26,666
which had no shore.

1004
00:52:26,766 --> 00:52:30,400
-He was working for
the Pan Africanist Congress,

1005
00:52:30,500 --> 00:52:32,933

the South African
Freedom movement.

1006
00:52:33,033 --> 00:52:35,833
And you had South African exiles

1007
00:52:35,933 --> 00:52:38,600
all over the place
in those days.

1008
00:52:38,700 --> 00:52:42,066
He was the representative
in Egypt.

1009
00:52:44,933 --> 00:52:48,300
Maya and Vus lived in Cairo,

1010
00:52:48,400 --> 00:52:51,900
where she wrote for newspapers.

1011
00:52:52,000 --> 00:52:55,566
But they could not
sustain the relationship.

1012
00:52:55,666 --> 00:52:58,400
-And it was a love/hate
relationship, because, you know,

1013
00:52:58,500 --> 00:53:01,566
she was an independent woman
and he's an African --

1014
00:53:01,666 --> 00:53:03,333
"No woman's gonna be
bigger than me."

1015
00:53:03,433 --> 00:53:05,600
-Unfortunately, at that time,

1016
00:53:05,700 --> 00:53:10,666
freedom fighters didn't know
how far freedom extended.

1017
00:53:10,766 --> 00:53:12,100
-But she needed to be with him

1018
00:53:12,200 --> 00:53:13,800

for that moment
to get back to Africa

1019
00:53:13,900 --> 00:53:16,833
to learn what she learned
to continue on.

1020
00:53:16,933 --> 00:53:19,733
-Vus was trying, and so was I,
but neither of us

1021
00:53:19,833 --> 00:53:22,300
was able to infuse vitality

1022
00:53:22,400 --> 00:53:24,400
into our wilting marriage.

1023
00:53:24,500 --> 00:53:26,966
We had worn
our marriage threadbare,

1024
00:53:27,066 --> 00:53:29,966
and it was time to discard it.

1025
00:53:30,066 --> 00:53:32,533
I knew that other women
would be in that house

1026
00:53:32,633 --> 00:53:35,700
before the sheets
lost my body's heat.

1027
00:53:39,266 --> 00:53:40,433
I was living in Cairo,

1028
00:53:40,533 --> 00:53:44,700
and my son
had finished high school.

1029
00:53:44,800 --> 00:53:47,300
He was 17.

1030
00:53:47,400 --> 00:53:50,800
He wanted to go
to the university in Ghana.

1031
00:53:50,900 --> 00:53:53,533

The first day there,

1032

00:53:53,633 --> 00:53:55,566
friends took him out for a drive

1033

00:53:55,666 --> 00:53:59,166
and let him see the countryside.

1034

00:53:59,266 --> 00:54:03,400
And a truck ran into his car.

1035

00:54:03,500 --> 00:54:08,200
A doctor studied the X-rays,
and she said, "A hard sneeze,

1036

00:54:08,300 --> 00:54:12,566
and he could be dead,"
because his neck was broken.

1037

00:54:12,666 --> 00:54:16,066
-I broke my neck in Cape Coast.

1038

00:54:16,166 --> 00:54:17,633
In those days,

1039

00:54:17,733 --> 00:54:21,700
there was no hospital
in Cape Coast.

1040

00:54:21,800 --> 00:54:26,133
A couple in a Volkswagen saw
the accident.

1041

00:54:26,233 --> 00:54:28,033
They piled me in the back

1042

00:54:28,133 --> 00:54:32,766
and drove me four and a half
hours to Accra,

1043

00:54:32,866 --> 00:54:36,133
where I woke four days later.

1044

00:54:36,233 --> 00:54:38,033
They put me in a Minerva cast.

1045

00:54:38,133 --> 00:54:41,100

Have you ever seen
a Minerva cast?

1046

00:54:41,200 --> 00:54:48,033

In a tropical rainforest
where it is 95 to 100 degrees,

1047

00:54:48,133 --> 00:54:49,633

I was in it
for three and a half months.

1048

00:54:49,733 --> 00:54:52,033

They had to cut me
out of it every month

1049

00:54:52,133 --> 00:54:55,566

because of the stuff
that was growing inside.

1050

00:54:55,666 --> 00:54:58,600

-I was told that
he would never walk again.

1051

00:54:58,700 --> 00:55:01,100

I said, "With the help of God,

1052

00:55:01,200 --> 00:55:04,366

my son will walk out
of the hospital."

1053

00:55:04,466 --> 00:55:07,600

And they said, "Oh,
we know you have to say that,

1054

00:55:07,700 --> 00:55:09,866

but we can tell you."

1055

00:55:09,966 --> 00:55:12,033

So I said, "No, I'm telling you.

1056

00:55:12,133 --> 00:55:14,366

I know you did
the best you could,

1057

00:55:14,466 --> 00:55:17,266

but I went to some place
so far beyond you,

1058
00:55:17,366 --> 00:55:19,366
I can't even describe it.

1059
00:55:19,466 --> 00:55:21,866
My son will walk out
of the hospital."

1060
00:55:25,733 --> 00:55:28,133
He was in intensive care,
so I was there.

1061
00:55:28,233 --> 00:55:30,033
And I said, "I see you walking."

1062
00:55:30,133 --> 00:55:34,200
He said, "Mom, that which
I feared is upon me.

1063
00:55:34,300 --> 00:55:35,733
Mother, I have to ask you
something

1064
00:55:35,833 --> 00:55:37,866
no one should ever ask a mother.

1065
00:55:37,966 --> 00:55:39,700
You're my best friend.

1066
00:55:39,800 --> 00:55:45,233
Mother, if there's no recovery,
pull the plug, let me go."

1067
00:55:45,333 --> 00:55:48,466
I started shouting, "Then I see
you talking, laughing.

1068
00:55:48,566 --> 00:55:50,400
I see you swimming and --"

1069
00:55:50,500 --> 00:55:53,766
He said, "Mom, please, there's
some sick people in this place.

1070
00:55:53,866 --> 00:55:55,433
Make so much noise."

1071
00:55:55,533 --> 00:55:58,633
And about the sixth day,
a nurse came in.

1072
00:55:58,733 --> 00:56:02,833
She said, "Miss Angelou,
come with me."

1073
00:56:02,933 --> 00:56:06,800
She pulled the blankets
off my son's feet.

1074
00:56:06,900 --> 00:56:09,100
And his toes went like that.

1075
00:56:09,200 --> 00:56:11,033
[Laughs, crying]

1076
00:56:22,966 --> 00:56:27,000
-It virtually destroyed her.

1077
00:56:27,100 --> 00:56:30,900
And I don't think
that he survived it

1078
00:56:31,000 --> 00:56:35,033
and he's still alive
and still functioning.

1079
00:56:35,133 --> 00:56:37,300
I don't think she's ever
gotten over that.

1080
00:56:37,400 --> 00:56:39,133
I think she felt
if she was there,

1081
00:56:39,233 --> 00:56:43,733
she could have prevented it
for some reason or another.

1082
00:56:43,833 --> 00:56:48,166
-I had some pictures
I had taken at the picnic,

1083
00:56:48,266 --> 00:56:53,766
really the last day

of Guy's full physical health.

1084

00:56:53,866 --> 00:56:55,266
And so I made copies for her.

1085

00:56:55,366 --> 00:56:57,733
I thought she might like
to have them.

1086

00:56:57,833 --> 00:57:01,800
And when I showed them to her,
she became very upset.

1087

00:57:01,900 --> 00:57:03,966
And she just pushed them away.

1088

00:57:04,066 --> 00:57:05,766
Her reaction let me know

1089

00:57:05,866 --> 00:57:09,833
how painful that still was
for her so many years later.

1090

00:57:11,866 --> 00:57:18,033
-When I moved to Ghana, my
intention was to go to Liberia,

1091

00:57:18,133 --> 00:57:20,966
and I had been offered
a job in Liberia.

1092

00:57:21,066 --> 00:57:25,533
But the first day that we
were there, he had the accident.

1093

00:57:25,633 --> 00:57:28,500
-So she decided
to stay in Ghana.

1094

00:57:28,600 --> 00:57:32,100
I was already living at
the YWCA hostel,

1095

00:57:32,200 --> 00:57:35,266
and I knew they had space.

1096

00:57:35,366 --> 00:57:37,066

-And, of course, once there,

1097

00:57:37,166 --> 00:57:40,000
there were
so many reasons to stay.

1098

00:57:40,100 --> 00:57:42,033
[]

1099

00:57:45,666 --> 00:57:49,700
-Ghana was exciting
at that time.

1100

00:57:49,800 --> 00:57:52,400
Kwame Nkrumah was the president.

1101

00:57:52,500 --> 00:57:56,133
And he projected
the African personality.

1102

00:57:56,233 --> 00:58:00,200
He had studied at Lincoln
University in the United States.

1103

00:58:00,300 --> 00:58:03,666
And he had sort of
extended an invitation.

1104

00:58:03,766 --> 00:58:06,300
-There were African-Americans
who had moved to Ghana.

1105

00:58:06,400 --> 00:58:11,666
Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, one of
the great thinkers of our time,

1106

00:58:11,766 --> 00:58:14,266
had come to Ghana to live.

1107

00:58:14,366 --> 00:58:17,000
Then I went to work
in the university.

1108

00:58:17,100 --> 00:58:21,566
There were so many Ghanaians
who had studied abroad.

1109

00:58:21,666 --> 00:58:26,000
And many people came to teach
at the university.

1110
00:58:26,100 --> 00:58:29,033
You could get into
any kind of discussion

1111
00:58:29,133 --> 00:58:31,766
on any subject
in Ghana at the time.

1112
00:58:31,866 --> 00:58:34,500
In-depth conversations.

1113
00:58:34,600 --> 00:58:37,266
-Maya was very well-known
in Ghana.

1114
00:58:37,366 --> 00:58:40,166
First, she was extremely tall.

1115
00:58:40,266 --> 00:58:44,833
In those days, to have a woman
six feet tall was very uncommon.

1116
00:58:44,933 --> 00:58:47,833
She had a little Fiat,
a tiny little thing.

1117
00:58:47,933 --> 00:58:50,033
She called it her
covered bicycle.

1118
00:58:50,133 --> 00:58:53,300
But she got all over Accra,
and everybody knew her.

1119
00:58:53,400 --> 00:58:55,533
She also liked to entertain.

1120
00:58:55,633 --> 00:58:58,400
So we had parties at the house.

1121
00:58:58,500 --> 00:58:59,700
Constant parties.

1122

00:58:59,800 --> 00:59:03,433

So we had one hell
of a good time.

1123

00:59:03,533 --> 00:59:04,900

-You could call people

1124

00:59:05,000 --> 00:59:07,200

and ask them
to come over for breakfast,

1125

00:59:07,300 --> 00:59:10,366

and they would come
in tens and twenties.

1126

00:59:10,466 --> 00:59:13,000

And you could make
hot cakes and waffles,

1127

00:59:13,100 --> 00:59:15,966

and some people
had never had them before.

1128

00:59:16,066 --> 00:59:17,666

It was just --

1129

00:59:17,766 --> 00:59:19,866

It was a great place to live.

1130

00:59:19,966 --> 00:59:22,833

□□

1131

00:59:25,966 --> 00:59:29,000

When Malcolm X came to Ghana,

1132

00:59:29,100 --> 00:59:31,000

the African-Americans
who were there,

1133

00:59:31,100 --> 00:59:34,533

we gathered around him
like his children.

1134

00:59:34,633 --> 00:59:37,800

And he liked me,
and we liked each other.

1135

00:59:37,900 --> 00:59:41,766

-I met Malcolm X at
my mother's house in Ghana.

1136

00:59:41,866 --> 00:59:45,833
My mother went out and bought
about six chickens --

1137

00:59:45,933 --> 00:59:48,633
and she rarely fried chicken.

1138

00:59:48,733 --> 00:59:52,066
And I was almost sorry
to meet Malcolm X

1139

00:59:52,166 --> 00:59:53,500
because the chicken was so good

1140

00:59:53,600 --> 00:59:56,100
and I had to share it with him.

1141

00:59:56,200 --> 01:00:00,533
But the thing about Malcolm is
for a person of his stature,

1142

01:00:00,633 --> 01:00:02,400
for me to ask a question,

1143

01:00:02,500 --> 01:00:04,566
and for him to think about it

1144

01:00:04,666 --> 01:00:06,966
and then come back
with an answer...

1145

01:00:10,066 --> 01:00:11,633
...captured my heart.

1146

01:00:11,733 --> 01:00:15,800
And his answers were
so phenomenal.

1147

01:00:15,900 --> 01:00:18,233
-We wanted to meet
so he could tell us

1148

01:00:18,333 --> 01:00:20,500

what was going on in the States

1149

01:00:20,600 --> 01:00:22,333

and what his plans were.

1150

01:00:22,433 --> 01:00:25,833

And we found out

that his quest was

1151

01:00:25,933 --> 01:00:28,400

to find an African government

1152

01:00:28,500 --> 01:00:34,100

that would take the United

Nations' genocide convention

1153

01:00:34,200 --> 01:00:38,466

and make a charge

against the United States.

1154

01:00:38,566 --> 01:00:40,300

-African nations

and Asian nations

1155

01:00:40,400 --> 01:00:44,066

and Latin American nations

look very hypocritical

1156

01:00:44,166 --> 01:00:46,600

when they stand up

in the United Nations

1157

01:00:46,700 --> 01:00:50,000

condemning the racist practices

of South Africa

1158

01:00:50,100 --> 01:00:51,733

and saying nothing in the U.N.

1159

01:00:51,833 --> 01:00:54,566

about the racist practices

manifest every day

1160

01:00:54,666 --> 01:00:58,033

against Negroes in this society.

1161

01:00:58,133 --> 01:01:00,666

-This is Maya with me,

1162

01:01:00,766 --> 01:01:05,400
and our delegation went into
the American embassy in Ghana

1163

01:01:05,500 --> 01:01:09,466
to deliver our petition
condemning the United States.

1164

01:01:09,566 --> 01:01:11,400
-Have you had any commitments
from any nations

1165

01:01:11,500 --> 01:01:12,666
in Africa to support you?

1166

01:01:12,766 --> 01:01:15,633
-I would rather not say
at this time.

1167

01:01:15,733 --> 01:01:18,033
-In fact, we couldn't get
any African government

1168

01:01:18,133 --> 01:01:21,233
to bring any charge
against the U.S.

1169

01:01:21,333 --> 01:01:25,166
because of the American money,
the cash.

1170

01:01:28,566 --> 01:01:30,666
-He wanted to see as much

1171

01:01:30,766 --> 01:01:33,600
as he could see
of the African continent.

1172

01:01:33,700 --> 01:01:38,000
He said in Ghana,
"I've gone to Mecca.

1173

01:01:38,100 --> 01:01:40,833
I've taken the Hajj.

1174

01:01:40,933 --> 01:01:46,666

And I have met men
with hair blond as corn silk

1175

01:01:46,766 --> 01:01:51,800
and their faces
as white as milk.

1176

01:01:51,900 --> 01:01:54,800
And I have been able
to call them brother.

1177

01:01:54,900 --> 01:01:57,566
So, obviously, I was wrong.

1178

01:01:57,666 --> 01:02:01,533
All white people
are not blue-eyed devils."

1179

01:02:01,633 --> 01:02:04,166
And it takes a lot of courage
to say to the world,

1180

01:02:04,266 --> 01:02:05,966
"You remember everything
I said last week?

1181

01:02:06,066 --> 01:02:08,900
Well, I don't believe
that anymore."

1182

01:02:09,000 --> 01:02:11,800
I want to have enough sense
to see the new thing

1183

01:02:11,900 --> 01:02:15,500
and enough courage
to say the new thing.

1184

01:02:15,600 --> 01:02:18,533
And I loved him so much.

1185

01:02:18,633 --> 01:02:23,366
-Maya came back because
she wanted to work with Malcolm.

1186

01:02:23,466 --> 01:02:25,066
[Gunshots]

1187
01:02:25,166 --> 01:02:28,866
[Indistinct shouting]

1188
01:02:28,966 --> 01:02:32,600
So she was shattered
that he was murdered

1189
01:02:32,700 --> 01:02:36,000
before she really
had a chance to talk to him.

1190
01:02:38,100 --> 01:02:40,700
-For me, I had two heroes.

1191
01:02:40,800 --> 01:02:43,200
Malcolm and...

1192
01:02:43,300 --> 01:02:45,033
Dr. King.

1193
01:02:45,133 --> 01:02:53,333
They were the people that
I would have looked to to lead.

1194
01:02:53,433 --> 01:02:57,166
-Martin Luther King...

1195
01:02:57,266 --> 01:03:01,033
was killed on my birthday.

1196
01:03:01,133 --> 01:03:05,233
I had worked for him
as a northern representative,

1197
01:03:05,333 --> 01:03:06,366
and he'd asked me to come back.

1198
01:03:06,466 --> 01:03:09,133
And I was going
to go back and then...

1199
01:03:09,233 --> 01:03:10,866
-Dr. Martin Luther King,

1200
01:03:10,966 --> 01:03:14,033

the apostle of nonviolence
in the Civil Rights Movement,

1201
01:03:14,133 --> 01:03:17,000
has been shot to death
in Memphis, Tennessee.

1202
01:03:17,100 --> 01:03:20,266
Police rushed the 39-year-old
Negro leader to a hospital,

1203
01:03:20,366 --> 01:03:22,933
where he died of a bullet wound
in the neck.

1204
01:03:26,033 --> 01:03:28,833
-It just -- just knocked me out.

1205
01:03:31,766 --> 01:03:34,766
And I fell into mutism again.

1206
01:03:34,866 --> 01:03:37,633
I just...

1207
01:03:37,733 --> 01:03:40,366
just couldn't be myself.

1208
01:03:40,466 --> 01:03:42,800
And, finally,
after about five days,

1209
01:03:42,900 --> 01:03:45,233
James Baldwin came to my house.

1210
01:03:45,333 --> 01:03:46,466
Bamma-lamma-lamma on the door.

1211
01:03:46,566 --> 01:03:48,700
"Open this hm-hm-hm door.

1212
01:03:48,800 --> 01:03:51,033
I'll call the police."

1213
01:03:51,133 --> 01:03:52,666
So I opened the door,
and he came in.

1214
01:03:52,766 --> 01:03:56,066
He saw I was really unkempt

1215
01:03:56,166 --> 01:03:57,366
and my house was a mess,

1216
01:03:57,466 --> 01:04:00,700
and I'd always loved
a pretty house.

1217
01:04:02,366 --> 01:04:04,633
He said, "Go take a shower,
put some clothes on.

1218
01:04:04,733 --> 01:04:06,433
I'm taking you somewhere."

1219
01:04:06,533 --> 01:04:11,633
We went to Jules Feiffer's
house, the cartoonist.

1220
01:04:11,733 --> 01:04:13,566
And Jules Feiffer
and Judy Feiffer,

1221
01:04:13,666 --> 01:04:15,566
his then-wife, told stories,

1222
01:04:15,566 --> 01:04:15,766
and Baldwin told stories.

1223
01:04:17,700 --> 01:04:17,900
And Baldwin asked me,

1224
01:04:19,433 --> 01:04:19,633
"Tell a little bit
about your grandma.

1225
01:04:21,866 --> 01:04:22,066
Tell a little bit
about Stamps, Arkansas."

1226
01:04:24,066 --> 01:04:24,266
So I started by saying,

1227
01:04:26,433 --> 01:04:26,633

"In Arkansas,
racism was so prevalent

1228
01:04:30,833 --> 01:04:31,033
that black people couldn't even
eat vanilla ice cream."

1229
01:04:35,566 --> 01:04:35,766
And so it made
everybody laugh.

1230
01:04:38,700 --> 01:04:38,900
And they asked me
to tell a story, tell another.

1231
01:04:41,533 --> 01:04:41,766
-She was absolutely captivating.

1232
01:04:43,500 --> 01:04:46,833
And she just told these stories
in a very matter-of-fact --

1233
01:04:46,933 --> 01:04:49,633
There was nothing
showoff-y about it.

1234
01:04:49,733 --> 01:04:52,433
-Judy Feiffer,
the next morning,

1235
01:04:52,533 --> 01:04:55,833
called Random House
and talked to Bob Loomis.

1236
01:04:55,933 --> 01:04:58,000
This was 1968.

1237
01:04:58,100 --> 01:05:00,500
-She called me one day,
and she said,

1238
01:05:00,600 --> 01:05:04,366
at their house the night
before, they had a party,

1239
01:05:04,466 --> 01:05:08,100
and this woman,
Maya Angelou, was there.

1240
01:05:08,200 --> 01:05:11,666
Now, in that group,
there's some wonderful talkers.

1241
01:05:11,766 --> 01:05:15,966
Jules, I think Philip Roth
was at that party.

1242
01:05:16,066 --> 01:05:19,833
But Judy said this woman
told the best stories --

1243
01:05:19,933 --> 01:05:21,233
people she'd known.

1244
01:05:21,333 --> 01:05:24,300
There were stories
of adventure that she had.

1245
01:05:24,400 --> 01:05:27,966
They were stories
about her career

1246
01:05:28,066 --> 01:05:31,000
in nightclubs
in California, on and on.

1247
01:05:31,100 --> 01:05:35,400
Then she said, "She's got a book
in her of some kind."

1248
01:05:35,500 --> 01:05:37,166
Well, I hate to tell you

1249
01:05:37,266 --> 01:05:39,200
how many times I've heard that.

1250
01:05:39,300 --> 01:05:41,200
But I called Maya.

1251
01:05:41,300 --> 01:05:44,400
She was in California,
I believe, then.

1252
01:05:44,500 --> 01:05:47,633
I brought up the subject.

She was not warm to it.

1253

01:05:47,733 --> 01:05:49,700

-He said, "Would you
write an autobiography?"

1254

01:05:49,800 --> 01:05:52,200

I said, "No, thank you.
No, I don't."

1255

01:05:52,300 --> 01:05:56,233

I write poetry
and I have plays."

1256

01:05:56,333 --> 01:06:01,766

I'd written
a 10-episode series for PBS.

1257

01:06:01,866 --> 01:06:05,033

So I went out to San Francisco
to produce it.

1258

01:06:05,133 --> 01:06:07,133

□□

1259

01:06:07,233 --> 01:06:12,100

Hello.
My name is Maya Angelou.

1260

01:06:12,200 --> 01:06:15,833

And Bob Loomis called me
about three or four times.

1261

01:06:15,933 --> 01:06:19,233

Oh, he harassed me
for about six months.

1262

01:06:19,333 --> 01:06:22,466

-Now, in those days,
the younger people ---

1263

01:06:22,566 --> 01:06:25,800

And somewhat unknown people
did not write books.

1264

01:06:25,900 --> 01:06:30,366

I called several more times.
Got nowhere.

1265
01:06:30,466 --> 01:06:32,533
-□ If you get to heaven
before I do □

1266
01:06:32,633 --> 01:06:34,433
And, finally, he said,

1267
01:06:34,533 --> 01:06:37,600
"Miss Angelou,
I won't call you again."

1268
01:06:37,700 --> 01:06:40,666
I said, "That's good."
He said, "Because, you know,

1269
01:06:40,766 --> 01:06:42,300
writing autobiography

1270
01:06:42,400 --> 01:06:46,700
as literature
is almost impossible."

1271
01:06:46,800 --> 01:06:48,700
I said, "Well..."

1272
01:06:48,800 --> 01:06:52,500
Well, in that case, I'll try."

1273
01:06:52,600 --> 01:06:55,833
-And believe it or not,
she started to write.

1274
01:06:55,933 --> 01:07:00,333
It needed some work, but it was
only because in a true sense,

1275
01:07:00,433 --> 01:07:02,533
she was an amateur.

1276
01:07:02,633 --> 01:07:06,000
Amateur, you know, means someone
who loves something.

1277
01:07:06,100 --> 01:07:08,300
It doesn't mean you're not good.

1278
01:07:08,400 --> 01:07:09,566
And we also decided

1279
01:07:09,666 --> 01:07:12,400
that although
she'd done a lot in her career,

1280
01:07:12,500 --> 01:07:17,166
that she should try maybe just
to write about her childhood.

1281
01:07:17,266 --> 01:07:20,633
So she began.

1282
01:07:20,733 --> 01:07:23,266
-When I was three
and Bailey four,

1283
01:07:23,366 --> 01:07:26,833
we had arrived in the musty
little town wearing tags

1284
01:07:26,933 --> 01:07:29,500
which instructed that
we were Marguerite

1285
01:07:29,600 --> 01:07:31,266
and Bailey Johnson Jr.

1286
01:07:31,366 --> 01:07:35,433
-She was able to go way
back and remember

1287
01:07:35,533 --> 01:07:37,366
in a very meaningful way

1288
01:07:37,466 --> 01:07:40,266
things that I think she'd never
told anybody.

1289
01:07:44,133 --> 01:07:46,766
When we first published
"Caged Bird,"

1290
01:07:46,866 --> 01:07:48,333
it was a new genre.

1291
01:07:48,433 --> 01:07:50,833
She was a new writer.

1292
01:07:50,933 --> 01:07:55,533
Sales, at first, were not what
I thought they should be.

1293
01:07:55,633 --> 01:07:58,866
It turned out to be
a landmark book,

1294
01:07:58,966 --> 01:08:02,533
still a touchstone
for a lot of people.

1295
01:08:05,766 --> 01:08:08,333
-I read her work
when I was in fifth grade.

1296
01:08:08,433 --> 01:08:11,400
It was the opening for me
to wanting to be a writer.

1297
01:08:11,500 --> 01:08:15,633
- "Caged Bird" was really
almost another Bible for me.

1298
01:08:15,733 --> 01:08:18,600
-I think it was around
junior high school.

1299
01:08:18,700 --> 01:08:20,566
-I don't even know
what age I was,

1300
01:08:20,666 --> 01:08:24,166
but it touched
a very young girlish part of me.

1301
01:08:24,266 --> 01:08:27,066
I felt it was me.

1302
01:08:27,166 --> 01:08:30,733
I felt it was a girl
sitting next to me.

1303
01:08:30,833 --> 01:08:33,399

-It reflected my own
mother's life,

1304
01:08:33,500 --> 01:08:37,566
which was a life of neglect
and mistreatment and abuse.

1305
01:08:37,666 --> 01:08:39,666
And I gave a copy to my mother.

1306
01:08:39,766 --> 01:08:41,133
I met Bill Clinton,

1307
01:08:41,233 --> 01:08:44,166
and one of the first things
we talked about was that book.

1308
01:08:44,266 --> 01:08:47,133
-When I read it,
I couldn't believe

1309
01:08:47,233 --> 01:08:48,600
that these things
happened to her

1310
01:08:48,700 --> 01:08:53,200
and that she was free enough
to talk about them.

1311
01:08:53,300 --> 01:08:57,766
-I'd never heard of another
black woman, young girl,

1312
01:08:57,866 --> 01:09:00,033
who had been raped.

1313
01:09:00,133 --> 01:09:01,966
So I read those words
and thought,

1314
01:09:02,066 --> 01:09:04,500
"Somebody knows who I am."

1315
01:09:07,866 --> 01:09:11,433
-Here's a black woman
who takes off the cuffs.

1316

01:09:11,533 --> 01:09:16,666

Here's a black woman
who writes her story.

1317

01:09:16,766 --> 01:09:20,300

It was a very important
literary feat.

1318

01:09:20,399 --> 01:09:24,133

Because it said it's okay
for a black woman

1319

01:09:24,233 --> 01:09:29,600

to say what happened to her
in public in a literary form.

1320

01:09:29,700 --> 01:09:31,833

-What she did --
and it's not easy --

1321

01:09:31,933 --> 01:09:36,566

was find a way of replicating
who and what she was on paper.

1322

01:09:36,666 --> 01:09:39,333

And a lot of writers
can't do that.

1323

01:09:39,433 --> 01:09:43,633

-I thought from the time
she was very young,

1324

01:09:43,733 --> 01:09:46,133

she was always paying attention.

1325

01:09:46,233 --> 01:09:48,333

She just didn't miss much.

1326

01:09:48,433 --> 01:09:50,666

And that's a great gift,

1327

01:09:50,766 --> 01:09:52,266

because if you're really
paying attention

1328

01:09:52,366 --> 01:09:55,400

and then you can
put it into words,

1329
01:09:55,500 --> 01:10:00,700
you can empower other people
as they absorb your experience.

1330
01:10:00,800 --> 01:10:04,000
-She said, "You know,
sometimes when I'm acting,

1331
01:10:04,100 --> 01:10:06,900
I see myself acting.

1332
01:10:07,000 --> 01:10:10,766
But when I write, I'm lost
completely in what I'm doing.

1333
01:10:10,866 --> 01:10:14,700
There's nothing else but that."

1334
01:10:14,800 --> 01:10:17,966
In fact, she even hibernates
when she writes.

1335
01:10:18,066 --> 01:10:19,700
She often rents a room.

1336
01:10:19,800 --> 01:10:23,433
-I know she likes to, you know,
have that room in the hotel

1337
01:10:23,533 --> 01:10:26,433
where, you know,
she takes her cards --

1338
01:10:26,533 --> 01:10:28,500
that yellow legal pad.

1339
01:10:28,600 --> 01:10:31,666
-All of her life,
Maya wrote in longhand.

1340
01:10:31,766 --> 01:10:34,466
-She'd sit down with a Bible
and a thesaurus,

1341
01:10:34,566 --> 01:10:37,466
and she makes draft after draft

after draft after draft.

1342

01:10:37,566 --> 01:10:42,833

-Just a desk, a chair, a pen,
and maybe some Johnnie Walker.

1343

01:10:42,933 --> 01:10:46,166

-Jack Daniels.
-Scotch.

1344

01:10:46,266 --> 01:10:48,400

-Part of her process,

1345

01:10:48,500 --> 01:10:52,166

I've come to find,
is talking it through.

1346

01:10:52,266 --> 01:10:54,733

She'll start to tell a story,
you know, and I'm like,

1347

01:10:54,833 --> 01:10:57,200

"Uh-huh,
this is gonna be in the book.

1348

01:10:57,300 --> 01:10:58,166

I can feel it."

1349

01:10:58,266 --> 01:11:00,566

-She would read
manuscript to me.

1350

01:11:00,666 --> 01:11:02,866

She would sing to me
in restaurants.

1351

01:11:02,966 --> 01:11:04,700

And she has a loud voice.

1352

01:11:04,800 --> 01:11:07,266

I thought it was wonderful,
but some head waiters

1353

01:11:07,366 --> 01:11:09,300

were biting their nails.

1354

01:11:09,400 --> 01:11:12,866

She's a singer,
she's a writer, she's a poet.

1355
01:11:12,966 --> 01:11:14,866
And yet books are not precious.

1356
01:11:14,966 --> 01:11:19,500
They do not sound contrived
or too ornate.

1357
01:11:19,600 --> 01:11:21,333
They're very simple.

1358
01:11:21,433 --> 01:11:25,133
That's what's so hard
to do and do it well.

1359
01:11:25,233 --> 01:11:28,833
-Autobiography is
awfully seductive.

1360
01:11:28,933 --> 01:11:30,800
Once I really got into it,

1361
01:11:30,900 --> 01:11:32,933
I realized that I was following

1362
01:11:33,033 --> 01:11:37,966
a tradition established
by Frederick Douglass...

1363
01:11:38,066 --> 01:11:40,233
which is the slave narrative.

1364
01:11:40,333 --> 01:11:42,633
Speaking
in the first person singular,

1365
01:11:42,733 --> 01:11:45,966
talking about
the third person plural.

1366
01:11:46,066 --> 01:11:50,233
Always saying "I," meaning "we."

1367
01:11:50,333 --> 01:11:54,533
-Her language base

was classical.

1368

01:11:54,633 --> 01:11:58,333

See, Maya didn't read
modern poetry until later,

1369

01:11:58,433 --> 01:12:02,300

and a lot of people
who come from country do that.

1370

01:12:02,400 --> 01:12:04,566

'Cause they're not exposed
to modern poetry.

1371

01:12:04,666 --> 01:12:08,033

Reading the older writers
means that their language

1372

01:12:08,133 --> 01:12:11,200

is going to be archaic.

1373

01:12:11,300 --> 01:12:15,500

And there's nothing wrong
with writing "Caged Bird"

1374

01:12:15,600 --> 01:12:18,033

in a language
that's partially Victorian

1375

01:12:18,133 --> 01:12:21,300

and biblical.

1376

01:12:21,400 --> 01:12:25,433

-Everybody in the world
uses words.

1377

01:12:25,533 --> 01:12:27,966

Uses, "How are you?
Fine, thank you,"

1378

01:12:28,066 --> 01:12:30,466

verbs, adverbs, adjectives,

1379

01:12:30,566 --> 01:12:32,400

nouns, pronouns.

1380

01:12:32,500 --> 01:12:36,100

The writer has to take
these most known things

1381
01:12:36,200 --> 01:12:37,833
and put them together
in such a way

1382
01:12:37,933 --> 01:12:40,033
that a reader says,

1383
01:12:40,133 --> 01:12:43,366
"I never thought of it
that way before."

1384
01:12:43,466 --> 01:12:46,133
That's hard.
That's a challenge.

1385
01:12:46,233 --> 01:12:49,200
And I know many writers,
and I'm one, who says,

1386
01:12:49,300 --> 01:12:53,366
"Lord, are you sure
you wanted me to do this?"

1387
01:12:53,466 --> 01:12:56,933
-When "Caged Bird"
came out in '69,

1388
01:12:57,033 --> 01:12:59,166
she had no idea

1389
01:12:59,266 --> 01:13:01,333
how popular and beloved

1390
01:13:01,433 --> 01:13:04,100
she would become
around the world.

1391
01:13:04,200 --> 01:13:05,800
-At that point in her life,

1392
01:13:05,900 --> 01:13:08,866
Maya was, you know, climbing up
the ladder of success.

1393

01:13:08,966 --> 01:13:13,200

I mean, she was being
acknowledged as a writer.

1394

01:13:13,300 --> 01:13:15,200

She had met Paul.

1395

01:13:15,300 --> 01:13:20,166

And Paul was very
supportive of her.

1396

01:13:20,266 --> 01:13:24,066

-Years ago, I fell in love
with a man...

1397

01:13:24,166 --> 01:13:26,966

who, I'm happy to say,
was in love with me.

1398

01:13:27,066 --> 01:13:32,733

And we lived together in great
harmony out in California.

1399

01:13:32,833 --> 01:13:35,066

But then he wanted
to get married,

1400

01:13:35,166 --> 01:13:38,466

and I don't care much
for the institution.

1401

01:13:38,566 --> 01:13:43,133

But he insisted.
And so I called Jimmy.

1402

01:13:43,233 --> 01:13:45,866

He said, "Does your reluctance
to marry him

1403

01:13:45,966 --> 01:13:49,966

have anything to do
with his being white?"

1404

01:13:50,066 --> 01:13:53,433

So I said...

1405

01:13:53,533 --> 01:13:55,800

"Maybe."

1406
01:13:55,900 --> 01:13:57,200
He said, "But his being white

1407
01:13:57,300 --> 01:14:00,266
didn't keep you
from falling in love with him."

1408
01:14:00,366 --> 01:14:02,233
I said, "No."
He said, "But it keeps you

1409
01:14:02,333 --> 01:14:06,100
from making a public statement
of your love, is that it?"

1410
01:14:06,200 --> 01:14:07,533
I said, "I suppose so."

1411
01:14:07,633 --> 01:14:12,300
People -- I mean, my people,
you know, what will they say?

1412
01:14:12,400 --> 01:14:17,933
He said, "Maya Angelou, you talk
about courage all the time.

1413
01:14:18,033 --> 01:14:20,500
You tell everybody else
to dare to love,

1414
01:14:20,600 --> 01:14:22,433
but you don't have the courage.

1415
01:14:22,533 --> 01:14:24,866
Are you a hypocrite?"

1416
01:14:24,966 --> 01:14:29,433
And he talked to me harder than
he'd ever talked to me before.

1417
01:14:29,533 --> 01:14:32,200
"So what the hell
you gonna do, girl?"

1418
01:14:32,300 --> 01:14:35,033
I said, "I'm gonna

marry the man," what to do.

1419

01:14:35,133 --> 01:14:37,233
I finally married
my own husband.

1420

01:14:37,333 --> 01:14:38,633
-Mm-hmm.
-My mother has a theory

1421

01:14:38,733 --> 01:14:40,300
that most people marry
other people's husbands.

1422

01:14:40,400 --> 01:14:43,633
-How many husbands?
-I've had enough.

1423

01:14:43,733 --> 01:14:44,933
[Both laugh]

1424

01:14:45,033 --> 01:14:47,000
But I finally have my own.

1425

01:14:47,100 --> 01:14:49,133
I'm a woman.
-You's a woman now.

1426

01:14:49,233 --> 01:14:51,866
I'm a woman.
And I was looking for a man.

1427

01:14:51,966 --> 01:14:54,233
-Mm-hmm.
What is your husband's name?

1428

01:14:54,333 --> 01:14:55,933
-Paul Du Feu.

1429

01:14:56,033 --> 01:14:57,433
-Du Feu.

1430

01:14:59,866 --> 01:15:05,666
-Paul Du Feu was
a very interesting guy.

1431

01:15:05,766 --> 01:15:08,700

He had come out of England

1432

01:15:08,800 --> 01:15:11,566
out of the construction
industry,

1433

01:15:11,666 --> 01:15:13,200
and he was a writer.

1434

01:15:13,300 --> 01:15:17,366
He had a tendency to drink...

1435

01:15:17,466 --> 01:15:20,366
to his fill.

1436

01:15:20,466 --> 01:15:21,866
-He had written a book called

1437

01:15:21,966 --> 01:15:24,866
"Let's Hear It
for the Long-Legged Women."

1438

01:15:24,966 --> 01:15:27,533
A lot of people thought
because he was with Maya

1439

01:15:27,633 --> 01:15:30,933
that the book
was about Maya.

1440

01:15:31,033 --> 01:15:33,500
But it just so happened
that his significant other

1441

01:15:33,600 --> 01:15:37,133
before Maya had been another
six-foot woman --

1442

01:15:37,233 --> 01:15:38,700
Germaine Greer --

1443

01:15:38,800 --> 01:15:42,900
who was England's
leading feminist.

1444

01:15:43,000 --> 01:15:47,400
-My mother was just beginning

to become prominent,

1445

01:15:47,500 --> 01:15:49,500
and they bought
a number of houses

1446

01:15:49,600 --> 01:15:53,866
where they just tore them apart
and reconstructed them.

1447

01:15:53,966 --> 01:15:56,000
-I mean, the time
I went up to see them,

1448

01:15:56,100 --> 01:15:57,900
he was under the house,

1449

01:15:58,000 --> 01:16:00,666
repairing things, you know.

1450

01:16:00,766 --> 01:16:03,700
And Maya was being
miss homemaker.

1451

01:16:03,800 --> 01:16:05,300
You know, she was
in the kitchen,

1452

01:16:05,400 --> 01:16:08,166
which is her sanctum, really.

1453

01:16:08,266 --> 01:16:10,200
She loves the kitchen.

1454

01:16:10,300 --> 01:16:17,400
-Paul would roast goats
and pigs, and they had parties.

1455

01:16:17,500 --> 01:16:19,933
-I thought that her relationship
with Paul

1456

01:16:20,033 --> 01:16:23,500
was the most compatible
that I witnessed over the years.

1457

01:16:23,600 --> 01:16:25,766

He seemed very caring.

1458

01:16:25,866 --> 01:16:33,200

She seemed at peace with herself
when they were together.

1459

01:16:33,300 --> 01:16:36,166

-I could see Maya looking
at Paul

1460

01:16:36,266 --> 01:16:38,366

with a look that was just --

1461

01:16:38,466 --> 01:16:40,866

You can't describe it
any other way

1462

01:16:40,966 --> 01:16:42,866

but, wow, this woman
is really taken

1463

01:16:42,966 --> 01:16:44,400

with this guy, you know?

1464

01:16:44,500 --> 01:16:45,600

They were solid.

1465

01:16:45,700 --> 01:16:47,433

I mean, they had
their differences,

1466

01:16:47,533 --> 01:16:51,900

but they communicated,
you know, in a good way.

1467

01:16:52,000 --> 01:16:56,300

-So when I heard
that it was over...

1468

01:16:56,400 --> 01:16:58,466

I was shocked.

1469

01:16:58,566 --> 01:17:02,300

-Maya came to my house
one night,

1470

01:17:02,400 --> 01:17:04,500

knocked on the door,
and she says,

1471
01:17:04,600 --> 01:17:08,300
"Don, my marriage is over,

1472
01:17:08,400 --> 01:17:10,533
and I had to get away
from Sonoma."

1473
01:17:10,633 --> 01:17:13,666
That's all she said.

1474
01:17:13,766 --> 01:17:15,133
-Maya was on the road,

1475
01:17:15,233 --> 01:17:19,700
and, increasingly,
Paul didn't go with her.

1476
01:17:19,800 --> 01:17:23,100
Paul drank increasingly.

1477
01:17:23,200 --> 01:17:27,266
And Maya, you know,
she could turn up one, too.

1478
01:17:27,366 --> 01:17:32,133
Paul said to me personally that
he didn't feel there was room

1479
01:17:32,233 --> 01:17:33,366
for anybody else

1480
01:17:33,466 --> 01:17:37,700
besides the written word
in Maya's life.

1481
01:17:39,733 --> 01:17:46,600
-My mother has not had
the good fortune to know love...

1482
01:17:48,333 --> 01:17:50,333
...that lasts a long time.

1483
01:17:56,333 --> 01:17:57,633
-We saw her on television,

1484
01:17:57,733 --> 01:18:00,166
and Nick thought
she was the sexiest thing

1485
01:18:00,266 --> 01:18:01,600
he'd ever seen --

1486
01:18:01,700 --> 01:18:04,066
aside from the poetry,
aside from the,

1487
01:18:04,166 --> 01:18:05,933
you know,
the greatness in her works.

1488
01:18:06,033 --> 01:18:07,466
He just thought
she was a sexy lady,

1489
01:18:07,566 --> 01:18:10,266
and he said, "God, I would love
to know this lady."

1490
01:18:10,366 --> 01:18:12,800
Meeting Maya for the first time,

1491
01:18:12,900 --> 01:18:14,133
we had been living
in black and white,

1492
01:18:14,233 --> 01:18:16,233
and she brought color.

1493
01:18:16,333 --> 01:18:18,266
There was a kinship,
a connection

1494
01:18:18,366 --> 01:18:20,600
that I had never felt
with anybody else.

1495
01:18:20,700 --> 01:18:24,200
If you've got stuff,
she's got more stuff.

1496
01:18:24,300 --> 01:18:27,133

[Indistinct singing]

1497

01:18:27,233 --> 01:18:30,366

I was playing the piano,
and she came on down.

1498

01:18:30,466 --> 01:18:31,633

All of a sudden,
she'd just come in

1499

01:18:31,733 --> 01:18:33,933

and start talking on the music.

1500

01:18:34,033 --> 01:18:36,633

And then, suddenly, you know,
the light bulb came on.

1501

01:18:36,733 --> 01:18:38,766

"Wow, this could be something."

1502

01:18:38,866 --> 01:18:41,233

-I was caught up
in a lonely crowd.

1503

01:18:41,333 --> 01:18:43,833

The moon had slipped
behind a cloud.

1504

01:18:43,933 --> 01:18:46,600

Like a single wave
on a lonely beach,

1505

01:18:46,700 --> 01:18:49,300

I thought I was lost
beyond your reach.

1506

01:18:49,400 --> 01:18:53,433

-□ Give me something
I could build on □

1507

01:18:53,533 --> 01:18:57,000

-It was just fun hearing her do
the line one way

1508

01:18:57,100 --> 01:18:58,900

and do the line another way,
you know?

1509
01:18:59,000 --> 01:19:00,500
When you're producing
Maya Angelou, you could say,

1510
01:19:00,600 --> 01:19:03,366
"Excuse me, could you just put
a little more something in it,"

1511
01:19:03,466 --> 01:19:04,833
but, you know,
you don't want to go too far.

1512
01:19:04,933 --> 01:19:06,900
You don't want
to make her mad now.

1513
01:19:07,000 --> 01:19:09,333
-Oh, but you kept on searching.

1514
01:19:09,433 --> 01:19:11,566
Both land and sea.

1515
01:19:11,666 --> 01:19:14,800
I say hallelujah
that you found me.

1516
01:19:14,900 --> 01:19:18,400
-□ No, no

1517
01:19:18,500 --> 01:19:20,900
□ No, no

1518
01:19:21,000 --> 01:19:23,933
-Most people just don't know
how to get loose.

1519
01:19:24,033 --> 01:19:28,133
But Maya knows how to get loose,
and music excites her.

1520
01:19:30,400 --> 01:19:34,333
She's not afraid of
her sensuality and her passion.

1521
01:19:34,433 --> 01:19:38,333
-□ Been found

1522
01:19:38,433 --> 01:19:41,466
-If she meets
a very interesting-looking man,

1523
01:19:41,566 --> 01:19:43,133
she will speak on it.

1524
01:19:43,233 --> 01:19:45,766
She will say,
"You're a handsome young man."

1525
01:19:45,866 --> 01:19:49,533
She can't help herself.
She's just sexy like that.

1526
01:19:49,633 --> 01:19:52,733
-One thing they cannot prohibit,

1527
01:19:52,833 --> 01:19:57,566
the strong men coming on,

1528
01:19:57,666 --> 01:20:03,300
the strong men getting stronger.

1529
01:20:03,400 --> 01:20:10,733
Strong men stronger,
stronger, stronger.

1530
01:20:14,133 --> 01:20:17,600
-□ Ever since the day we met

1531
01:20:17,700 --> 01:20:19,166
What a pity.

1532
01:20:19,266 --> 01:20:21,866
-I was doing a score on
"Love of Ivy."

1533
01:20:21,966 --> 01:20:26,800
-□ You know our love is nothing
but the blues, woman □

1534
01:20:26,900 --> 01:20:30,600
-We had B.B. King for two songs,
and I needed a lyricist.

1535

01:20:30,700 --> 01:20:34,366
-□ Baby, how blue can you get?

1536
01:20:34,466 --> 01:20:37,733
-And so I saw her in New York
and asked her

1537
01:20:37,833 --> 01:20:40,766
would she be interested in doing
a lyric for B.B. King

1538
01:20:40,866 --> 01:20:42,266
for this movie
with Sydney Poitier

1539
01:20:42,366 --> 01:20:43,900
and Abbey Lincoln.

1540
01:20:44,000 --> 01:20:45,266
And she said, "Sure."

1541
01:20:45,366 --> 01:20:47,100
And she wrote the lyrics
for two songs.

1542
01:20:47,200 --> 01:20:48,600
One was a big hit.

1543
01:20:48,700 --> 01:20:50,533
-I'm going to ask you
one last question,

1544
01:20:50,633 --> 01:20:52,066
and then we'll be finished.

1545
01:20:52,166 --> 01:20:55,866
The question is,
what is the blues?

1546
01:20:55,966 --> 01:20:58,233
Now, wait, Mr. King.

1547
01:20:58,333 --> 01:21:00,600
One of the things
I'm interested in here

1548
01:21:00,700 --> 01:21:04,500

is the relationship
of the blues to African music.

1549
01:21:04,600 --> 01:21:06,900
-I didn't discover
till Maya confessed it

1550
01:21:07,000 --> 01:21:10,100
to me that her and B.B.,

1551
01:21:10,200 --> 01:21:12,700
that the relationship
went past lyric writing.

1552
01:21:12,800 --> 01:21:14,933
-We've heard that ladies
will cry

1553
01:21:15,033 --> 01:21:16,433
when something happened to them.

1554
01:21:16,533 --> 01:21:20,366
A man won't cry on the outside,
but he usually cries inwardly.

1555
01:21:20,466 --> 01:21:22,300
It might be one of those funny
type of things

1556
01:21:22,400 --> 01:21:24,666
that I feel that you may laugh
at me about it,

1557
01:21:24,766 --> 01:21:27,466
so I'll get out to myself,
and I sing about it.

1558
01:21:27,566 --> 01:21:30,333
And, eventually,
it becomes a song.

1559
01:21:30,433 --> 01:21:31,733
-You see, that's poetry.

1560
01:21:31,833 --> 01:21:35,200
That shows that you're not
only a poet in your music.

1561
01:21:35,300 --> 01:21:36,866
-And I said, "If I knew that,

1562
01:21:36,966 --> 01:21:38,500
I would have told you
to stay away,

1563
01:21:38,600 --> 01:21:40,333
because blues singers
give the blues.

1564
01:21:40,433 --> 01:21:41,566
They don't get the blues.

1565
01:21:41,666 --> 01:21:43,933
They give the blues."

1566
01:21:44,033 --> 01:21:46,700
-□ How blue can you get,
woman? □

1567
01:21:46,800 --> 01:21:51,566
-And he gave us the blues, too,
'cause he gave her a rough time.

1568
01:21:51,666 --> 01:21:56,933
-□ The answer's right here
in my heart □

1569
01:21:58,766 --> 01:22:02,766
-When I was young,
my father would --

1570
01:22:02,866 --> 01:22:06,100
He would shout, "Come here,
bring the kids, bring the kids!"

1571
01:22:06,200 --> 01:22:08,666
And we'd go running in,
and he'd go,

1572
01:22:08,766 --> 01:22:11,133
"Look at this colored girl
on TV!"

1573
01:22:11,233 --> 01:22:14,066
And he'd just be sitting there,

looking at it.

1574

01:22:14,166 --> 01:22:16,066
At that point, the main images

1575

01:22:16,166 --> 01:22:18,233
that we were getting
on the screen

1576

01:22:18,333 --> 01:22:21,000
were people
that I didn't recognize.

1577

01:22:21,100 --> 01:22:26,733
But "Roots" was as if my family
was on the television.

1578

01:22:26,833 --> 01:22:28,266
-That's good.

1579

01:22:28,366 --> 01:22:31,900
-And I don't mean my ancestral
family, but my real family.

1580

01:22:32,000 --> 01:22:35,933
-Now that you are a man,
what will you do?

1581

01:22:36,033 --> 01:22:39,733
-The "Roots" miniseries
comes out in '77.

1582

01:22:39,833 --> 01:22:43,766
Black directors, black actors.

1583

01:22:43,866 --> 01:22:48,700
And here's Maya,
the grandmother of Kunta Kinte.

1584

01:22:48,800 --> 01:22:50,766
-You can grow as tall as a tree,

1585

01:22:50,866 --> 01:22:54,700
and I will still be
your grandmother!

1586

01:22:54,800 --> 01:22:57,633

-The impact that "Roots"
had, it's a story

1587
01:22:57,733 --> 01:23:00,033
that you could read
about it a little bit

1588
01:23:00,133 --> 01:23:02,600
in a chapter in a history book.

1589
01:23:02,700 --> 01:23:06,033
But the world
didn't really realize

1590
01:23:06,133 --> 01:23:07,966
the horrific stories

1591
01:23:08,066 --> 01:23:10,466
that happened during
those hundreds of years.

1592
01:23:13,733 --> 01:23:16,300
-It was edifying
for a lot of us.

1593
01:23:16,400 --> 01:23:17,633
There were panels everywhere.

1594
01:23:17,733 --> 01:23:19,733
People made money
talking about "Roots,"

1595
01:23:19,833 --> 01:23:22,700
writing about "Roots,"
singing about "Roots."

1596
01:23:22,800 --> 01:23:26,966
The '70s and the '80s
was a great time for Maya.

1597
01:23:27,066 --> 01:23:28,900
Maya was cooking.

1598
01:23:29,000 --> 01:23:30,566
[]

1599
01:23:30,666 --> 01:23:33,733

I mean, "Caged Bird"
was made into a movie.

1600
01:23:33,833 --> 01:23:35,966
Maya Became the first
black woman member

1601
01:23:36,066 --> 01:23:38,200
of the Directors Guild
of America.

1602
01:23:38,300 --> 01:23:39,633
Whoo, tell me about it!

1603
01:23:39,733 --> 01:23:43,433
She had this series
of autobiographies come out,

1604
01:23:43,533 --> 01:23:45,166
just smoking, you know.

1605
01:23:45,266 --> 01:23:47,833
And poetry, "Pray My Wings,"

1606
01:23:47,933 --> 01:23:49,400
"Heart of a Woman,"

1607
01:23:49,500 --> 01:23:52,333
"Singin' & Swingin' &
Gettin' Merry like Christmas."

1608
01:23:52,433 --> 01:23:54,933
-A singer, dancer,
and actress, screenwriter,

1609
01:23:55,033 --> 01:23:58,433
editor, lecturer, author --
Maya Angelou.

1610
01:23:58,533 --> 01:24:00,433
[Applause]

1611
01:24:05,100 --> 01:24:07,833
- "Joy" was a word
that Maya wrote

1612
01:24:07,933 --> 01:24:11,233

in an autograph
tens of thousands of times.

1613
01:24:11,333 --> 01:24:14,933
I'd be with her, and there'd
be lines in the gymnasium,

1614
01:24:15,033 --> 01:24:18,133
wrapping around
inside the gymnasium.

1615
01:24:18,233 --> 01:24:23,000
-I always knew that what
Maya Angelou held as a poet

1616
01:24:23,100 --> 01:24:24,800
and a writer

1617
01:24:24,900 --> 01:24:28,933
was something that the world
needed to feel and experience.

1618
01:24:29,033 --> 01:24:31,066
[]

1619
01:24:33,400 --> 01:24:36,200
-I was asked, would
I consider writing a poem

1620
01:24:36,300 --> 01:24:39,433
for President Clinton's
inauguration.

1621
01:24:39,533 --> 01:24:41,033
And I said, "Yes!"

1622
01:24:41,133 --> 01:24:42,300
And then I started to pray

1623
01:24:42,400 --> 01:24:43,866
and ask everybody
and little children,

1624
01:24:43,966 --> 01:24:44,866
"What do you think?"

1625
01:24:44,966 --> 01:24:46,033

-I wanted a poem.

1626

01:24:46,133 --> 01:24:49,633
Nobody had done a poem
since Robert Frost.

1627

01:24:49,733 --> 01:24:50,866
Once I made the decision,

1628

01:24:50,966 --> 01:24:53,000
I didn't really think
about anybody else.

1629

01:24:55,200 --> 01:24:57,433
Maya Angelou had spent
a lot of her childhood

1630

01:24:57,533 --> 01:24:59,000
in Stamps, Arkansas,

1631

01:24:59,100 --> 01:25:03,433
which is about 25 miles
from Hope, where I was born.

1632

01:25:03,533 --> 01:25:06,300
My grandfather had
a little grocery store

1633

01:25:06,400 --> 01:25:10,133
in a predominantly
African-American neighborhood.

1634

01:25:10,233 --> 01:25:13,433
When I read "I Know
Why the Caged Bird Sings,"

1635

01:25:13,533 --> 01:25:16,266
I knew exactly who
she was talking about

1636

01:25:16,366 --> 01:25:20,166
and what she was
talking about in that book.

1637

01:25:20,266 --> 01:25:22,733
-That's a contradiction
in terms, public poem.

1638
01:25:22,833 --> 01:25:25,533
-Yes.
-Poem is private and interior

1639
01:25:25,633 --> 01:25:26,766
and all that.

1640
01:25:26,866 --> 01:25:28,666
And people,
as soon as the statement

1641
01:25:28,766 --> 01:25:30,700
was made to the press,

1642
01:25:30,800 --> 01:25:32,566
people would see me
in the supermarket,

1643
01:25:32,666 --> 01:25:35,966
on planes and say,
"How's the poem going?"

1644
01:25:36,066 --> 01:25:37,800
Oh, gosh!
-"Finish that poem yet?"

1645
01:25:37,900 --> 01:25:39,500
-Yeah, exactly.

1646
01:25:39,600 --> 01:25:41,133
-I knew she got me,

1647
01:25:41,233 --> 01:25:43,333
she understood the time
we were living in,

1648
01:25:43,433 --> 01:25:45,733
she understood the world
we were living in,

1649
01:25:45,833 --> 01:25:48,233
and she knew
what could be our undoing,

1650
01:25:48,333 --> 01:25:51,166
as well as our unchaining.

1651
01:25:51,266 --> 01:25:53,600
-Now, we he no idea
what she was gonna say.

1652
01:25:53,700 --> 01:25:55,800
And Bill didn't come with
any set of directions, like,

1653
01:25:55,900 --> 01:25:57,233
"Well, I'd like you
to talk about this

1654
01:25:57,333 --> 01:25:58,400
and I'd like you
to talk about that."

1655
01:25:58,500 --> 01:26:00,433
He just said,
"I want you to write a poem

1656
01:26:00,533 --> 01:26:03,466
and deliver it
at my inauguration."

1657
01:26:03,566 --> 01:26:05,500
-But I knew she'd make
an impression.

1658
01:26:05,600 --> 01:26:07,133
She was big.

1659
01:26:07,233 --> 01:26:09,833
And she had the voice of God.

1660
01:26:09,933 --> 01:26:12,766
-A rock, a river,

1661
01:26:12,866 --> 01:26:14,433
a tree,

1662
01:26:14,533 --> 01:26:19,200
hosts to species long
since departed,

1663
01:26:19,300 --> 01:26:21,266
marked the mastodon...

1664
01:26:21,366 --> 01:26:24,766
-And the minute
she started talking,

1665
01:26:24,866 --> 01:26:29,766
you could just feel the change
rolling across the crowd,

1666
01:26:29,866 --> 01:26:32,766
and everybody started listening.

1667
01:26:32,866 --> 01:26:37,333
-But today,
the rock cries out to us.

1668
01:26:37,433 --> 01:26:40,966
Come, you may
stand upon my back...

1669
01:26:41,066 --> 01:26:44,733
The rock comes from
a 19th-century gospel song.

1670
01:26:44,833 --> 01:26:48,400
□ Oh, I went to the rock
to hide my face □

1671
01:26:48,500 --> 01:26:49,866
□ Rock cried out...

1672
01:26:49,966 --> 01:26:52,866
No hiding place down here.

1673
01:26:52,966 --> 01:26:56,500
Across the wall of the world,
a river sings a beautiful song.

1674
01:26:56,600 --> 01:26:59,733
□ I'm gonna lay down my burden

1675
01:26:59,833 --> 01:27:01,933
□ Down by the riverside

1676
01:27:02,033 --> 01:27:06,066
□ To study war no more

1677

01:27:06,166 --> 01:27:08,800
Your armed struggles for profit

1678
01:27:08,900 --> 01:27:12,133
have left collars
of waste upon my shore.

1679
01:27:12,233 --> 01:27:15,966
Yet today, I call you
to my riverside,

1680
01:27:16,066 --> 01:27:18,766
if you will study war no more.

1681
01:27:18,866 --> 01:27:21,533
-And once you had that...

1682
01:27:21,633 --> 01:27:24,133
-Then I could talk about
all of us.

1683
01:27:24,233 --> 01:27:27,766
There is a true yearning
to respond to the singing river

1684
01:27:27,866 --> 01:27:29,566
and the wise rock,

1685
01:27:29,666 --> 01:27:32,100
so say the Asian, the Hispanic,

1686
01:27:32,200 --> 01:27:33,800
the Jew, the African,

1687
01:27:33,900 --> 01:27:35,366
the Native American,

1688
01:27:35,466 --> 01:27:37,133
the Sioux, the Catholic,

1689
01:27:37,233 --> 01:27:38,833
the Muslim, the French,

1690
01:27:38,933 --> 01:27:40,700
the Greek, the Irish,

1691

01:27:40,800 --> 01:27:42,666
the rabbi, the priest,

1692
01:27:42,766 --> 01:27:46,200
the sheik, the gay,
the straight, the preacher,

1693
01:27:46,300 --> 01:27:49,300
the privileged,
the homeless, the teacher.

1694
01:27:49,400 --> 01:27:51,800
They all hear
the speaking of the tree.

1695
01:27:51,900 --> 01:27:55,666
Each of you, descendant
of some passed-on traveler,

1696
01:27:55,766 --> 01:27:57,733
has been paid for --

1697
01:27:57,833 --> 01:28:00,200
bought, sold, stolen,

1698
01:28:00,300 --> 01:28:02,066
arriving on a nightmare,

1699
01:28:02,166 --> 01:28:04,266
praying for a dream.

1700
01:28:04,366 --> 01:28:06,133
Give birth again to the dream.

1701
01:28:06,233 --> 01:28:07,300
-It was wonderful.

1702
01:28:07,400 --> 01:28:11,633
-Sculpted into the image
of your most public self.

1703
01:28:11,733 --> 01:28:16,400
-I thought it was monumental...

1704
01:28:16,500 --> 01:28:22,700
because it was inclusive,
it was understandable.

1705
01:28:22,800 --> 01:28:24,100
-It was the whole package.

1706
01:28:24,200 --> 01:28:27,700
I mean, it was a phenomenal
woman at a moment in history

1707
01:28:27,800 --> 01:28:30,700
where she belonged
with a president

1708
01:28:30,800 --> 01:28:32,733
with whom she could relate.

1709
01:28:32,833 --> 01:28:35,000
It just pulled it all together.

1710
01:28:35,100 --> 01:28:37,933
-Here on the pulse
of this new day,

1711
01:28:38,033 --> 01:28:41,100
you may have the grace
to look up and out

1712
01:28:41,200 --> 01:28:43,933
and into your sister's eyes

1713
01:28:44,033 --> 01:28:48,100
and into your brother's face,
your country,

1714
01:28:48,200 --> 01:28:51,466
and say simply, very simply,

1715
01:28:51,566 --> 01:28:55,066
with hope, "Good morning."

1716
01:28:56,700 --> 01:28:59,100
[Cheers and applause]

1717
01:29:01,766 --> 01:29:02,700
-She just did it.

1718
01:29:02,800 --> 01:29:07,033

I mean, it was just
breathtaking.

1719
01:29:07,133 --> 01:29:11,766
That poem is kind of like
an eternal gift to America.

1720
01:29:11,866 --> 01:29:14,366
And it will read well
100 years from now.

1721
01:29:19,800 --> 01:29:23,066
-Right after she delivered
the inaugural address poem,

1722
01:29:23,166 --> 01:29:27,100
so many requests
started coming in.

1723
01:29:27,200 --> 01:29:30,200
If she lived another lifetime,

1724
01:29:30,300 --> 01:29:33,666
she wouldn't be able
to fulfill the requests

1725
01:29:33,766 --> 01:29:37,233
to speak at universities
and colleges.

1726
01:29:37,333 --> 01:29:40,300
That is some -- whoo!

1727
01:29:40,400 --> 01:29:44,033
-□ My name's Maya,
that's a fine name □

1728
01:29:44,133 --> 01:29:47,066
□ It's not your name,
but it's fine just the same □

1729
01:29:47,166 --> 01:29:49,466
-Dr. Maya Angelou.
-Maya Angelou.

1730
01:29:49,566 --> 01:29:51,433
-Ladies and gentlemen,
Maya Angelou.

1731
01:29:51,533 --> 01:29:52,866
-Dr. Maya Angelou.

1732
01:29:52,966 --> 01:29:54,833
-Well, Maya Angelou is here.

1733
01:29:54,933 --> 01:29:57,100
-Maya Angelou for Butterfinger.

1734
01:29:57,200 --> 01:30:02,400
-Did the slothful mastodon upon
his extinction declare the wind,

1735
01:30:02,500 --> 01:30:05,500
the rain, the fire,
the Butterfinger.

1736
01:30:05,600 --> 01:30:06,933
-Good evening.

1737
01:30:07,033 --> 01:30:10,600
-I am the hope of the slave,
and I don't work for free.

1738
01:30:14,733 --> 01:30:15,766
-Kim, you had a question.

1739
01:30:15,866 --> 01:30:17,233
-Yeah, I wanted to ask Maya

1740
01:30:17,333 --> 01:30:19,433
her views on interracial
relationship.

1741
01:30:19,533 --> 01:30:21,633
-Oh, thank you.
And first, I'm Miss Angelou.

1742
01:30:21,733 --> 01:30:23,233
-Miss Angelou.
-Yes, ma'am.

1743
01:30:23,333 --> 01:30:26,100
I'm not Maya.
I'm 62 years old.

1744
01:30:26,200 --> 01:30:28,466
I have lived so long
and tried so hard

1745
01:30:28,566 --> 01:30:31,233
that a young woman like you --
or any other --

1746
01:30:31,333 --> 01:30:35,600
has no license to come up to me
and call me by my first name.

1747
01:30:35,700 --> 01:30:38,533
That's first.
That's first.

1748
01:30:38,633 --> 01:30:40,400
Also, because at the same time,

1749
01:30:40,500 --> 01:30:42,900
I am your mother,
I'm your auntie,

1750
01:30:43,000 --> 01:30:45,433
I'm your teacher,
I'm your professor.

1751
01:30:45,533 --> 01:30:46,900
You see?

1752
01:30:47,000 --> 01:30:49,866
I wrote the book
"Gather Together in My Name,"

1753
01:30:49,966 --> 01:30:52,166
to tell young people

1754
01:30:52,266 --> 01:30:55,333
that I would admit
where I've been.

1755
01:30:55,433 --> 01:30:59,733
I had written about
a very rough time at 18.

1756
01:30:59,833 --> 01:31:03,100
I went on to a national show,

1757
01:31:03,200 --> 01:31:04,466
and the woman
who interviewed me,

1758
01:31:04,566 --> 01:31:07,500
who I knew slightly...

1759
01:31:07,600 --> 01:31:11,166
said, "Maya Angelou,
how does it feel to know

1760
01:31:11,266 --> 01:31:12,366
you're the first black woman

1761
01:31:12,466 --> 01:31:16,200
to have a national best seller
in nonfiction,

1762
01:31:16,300 --> 01:31:19,666
second book nominated
for the Pulitzer,

1763
01:31:19,766 --> 01:31:24,066
and to know that at 18,
you were a prostitute?"

1764
01:31:24,166 --> 01:31:28,800
The fellow I liked told me
he was desperate.

1765
01:31:28,900 --> 01:31:31,466
And I was so green.

1766
01:31:31,566 --> 01:31:33,233
I tell you why
I wrote that, though.

1767
01:31:33,333 --> 01:31:39,033
Because so many adults told
and tell young people,

1768
01:31:39,133 --> 01:31:40,833
"I've never done anything wrong.

1769
01:31:40,933 --> 01:31:43,166
My closet is free of specters

1770
01:31:43,266 --> 01:31:45,633
and ghosts and skeletons."

1771
01:31:45,733 --> 01:31:50,800
So I thought they could
all gather together in my name.

1772
01:31:50,900 --> 01:31:54,500
I would tell the children,
"Listen, I've done this.

1773
01:31:54,600 --> 01:31:55,766
This has happened.

1774
01:31:55,866 --> 01:31:58,200
I have forgiven myself.
I've gotten up."

1775
01:31:58,300 --> 01:32:00,766
I was afraid that
when I told it,

1776
01:32:00,866 --> 01:32:04,366
that there would be
sneering at me.

1777
01:32:04,466 --> 01:32:06,566
Just the opposite.

1778
01:32:06,666 --> 01:32:08,966
Just the opposite happened.

1779
01:32:11,333 --> 01:32:15,266
My Aunt Pauline passed
this quilt down to me.

1780
01:32:15,366 --> 01:32:17,833
It was made by
my great-great-grandmother.

1781
01:32:17,933 --> 01:32:20,200
-The first time
I ever sat down with her

1782
01:32:20,300 --> 01:32:23,166
was during the making of

"How to Make an American Quilt."

1783

01:32:23,266 --> 01:32:27,300

And I was giving her
her proper reverential due,

1784

01:32:27,400 --> 01:32:31,466

and calling her Dr. Angelou
or -- and she would say,

1785

01:32:31,566 --> 01:32:33,466

"Alfre, you --
you know, stop it.

1786

01:32:33,566 --> 01:32:34,933

You call me Maya."

1787

01:32:35,033 --> 01:32:37,866

And I looked at her, I said,
"I'm not calling you Maya."

1788

01:32:37,966 --> 01:32:40,700

And I said,
"Okay, let's compromise.

1789

01:32:40,800 --> 01:32:42,533

We'll go with Miss Maya."

1790

01:32:42,633 --> 01:32:43,866

-And let's go right away,

1791

01:32:43,966 --> 01:32:46,366

while we've got the sun
and no airplanes.

1792

01:32:46,466 --> 01:32:48,233

-In the late '90s,

1793

01:32:48,333 --> 01:32:52,066

Dr. Angelou was going to
make her directing debut.

1794

01:32:52,166 --> 01:32:53,300

-Cut!

1795

01:32:53,400 --> 01:32:54,866

-I knew she was

a creative genius,

1796

01:32:54,966 --> 01:32:57,866
so I didn't have
any qualms of being directed

1797

01:32:57,966 --> 01:32:59,766
by a first-time director.

1798

01:32:59,866 --> 01:33:05,100
But poets tend to be
more introspective.

1799

01:33:05,200 --> 01:33:08,400
Poets create alone.

1800

01:33:08,500 --> 01:33:12,433
And a film set
is the absolute opposite.

1801

01:33:12,533 --> 01:33:16,033
It's loud, it's boisterous,
until, "Action."

1802

01:33:16,133 --> 01:33:18,466
-□ Little darling

1803

01:33:18,566 --> 01:33:20,300
□ Gotta go now

1804

01:33:20,400 --> 01:33:22,600
-Maya Angelou's film
"Down in the Delta"

1805

01:33:22,700 --> 01:33:27,766
mirrored the migration
of the sharecroppers

1806

01:33:27,866 --> 01:33:31,433
coming up to the north
for opportunity,

1807

01:33:31,533 --> 01:33:33,000
for safety,

1808

01:33:33,100 --> 01:33:38,700
and they start to live away

from the land on concrete.

1809

01:33:38,800 --> 01:33:43,800
And that starts
to change a person.

1810

01:33:43,900 --> 01:33:46,066
Especially people who have
worked the land.

1811

01:33:46,166 --> 01:33:48,400
And it starts to make
the family dysfunctional

1812

01:33:48,500 --> 01:33:50,633
after a couple generations.

1813

01:33:50,733 --> 01:33:52,766
[Doorbell buzzing]
-Loretta!

1814

01:33:55,000 --> 01:33:56,600
Open --
-What?!

1815

01:33:56,700 --> 01:34:01,533
-And the mother realizes,
"You know what?

1816

01:34:01,633 --> 01:34:03,000
The remedy to that..."

1817

01:34:03,100 --> 01:34:04,700
-Come on home.

1818

01:34:04,800 --> 01:34:06,166
- "...is getting back
to the land,

1819

01:34:06,266 --> 01:34:09,500
is going down where people say,
'Good morning,'

1820

01:34:09,600 --> 01:34:11,600
'How are you, sir,' 'I am fine.'

1821

01:34:11,700 --> 01:34:13,433

Where there is community."

1822

01:34:13,533 --> 01:34:15,933

□□

1823

01:34:18,900 --> 01:34:20,866

Dr. Angelou believed
in the beauty

1824

01:34:20,966 --> 01:34:26,933

and the healing power
of the South...

1825

01:34:27,033 --> 01:34:29,066

and of family and connection.

1826

01:34:29,166 --> 01:34:34,966

-150 years of family
history right here.

1827

01:34:35,066 --> 01:34:36,700

-Just as important as the story

1828

01:34:36,800 --> 01:34:39,666

that we were telling was
how we treated ourselves

1829

01:34:39,766 --> 01:34:42,333

and each other in the process
of telling that story.

1830

01:34:42,433 --> 01:34:45,800

And so she was called
Dr. Angelou on the set,

1831

01:34:45,900 --> 01:34:49,500

and she called people
Miss Divine.

1832

01:34:49,600 --> 01:34:52,500

Even like a grip,
just like a beer-belly grip,

1833

01:34:52,600 --> 01:34:57,166

we honored each other
and honored this story.

1834

01:34:57,266 --> 01:34:59,266

The whole crew would sit,

1835

01:34:59,366 --> 01:35:02,966

and she would talk about
the historical significance

1836

01:35:03,066 --> 01:35:05,066

of a particular scene

1837

01:35:05,166 --> 01:35:10,300

and what would be happening
in that space 100 years ago.

1838

01:35:12,666 --> 01:35:16,866

It was like we were on
an archeological dig

1839

01:35:16,966 --> 01:35:19,766

on sacred ground.

1840

01:35:22,133 --> 01:35:24,966

-Years ago,
I was living in Egypt.

1841

01:35:25,066 --> 01:35:27,133

And my next-door neighbor,
her husband was

1842

01:35:27,233 --> 01:35:29,866

the first secretary
of the Nigerian embassy.

1843

01:35:29,966 --> 01:35:33,000

So I said, "I know a song.
I believe it's African,

1844

01:35:33,100 --> 01:35:34,900

but I don't know what it means."

1845

01:35:35,000 --> 01:35:37,266

[Singing in foreign language]

1846

01:35:56,733 --> 01:36:00,033

I looked over,
and she was crying.

1847

01:36:00,133 --> 01:36:02,300
She said, "It's ancient Yoruba,

1848
01:36:02,400 --> 01:36:04,466
and it says, 'Father, father,

1849
01:36:04,566 --> 01:36:07,200
they have taken me
from your compound

1850
01:36:07,300 --> 01:36:10,233
and they treat me worse
than you treat a dog.

1851
01:36:10,333 --> 01:36:14,433
They've taken me across water
wetter than tears.

1852
01:36:14,533 --> 01:36:19,766
Is your magic strong enough
to cross all this water?"

1853
01:36:19,866 --> 01:36:23,500
When I was living in Ghana,
the people there looked at me

1854
01:36:23,600 --> 01:36:26,633
and thinking I looked
so much like them

1855
01:36:26,733 --> 01:36:29,633
that maybe I was the daughter

1856
01:36:29,733 --> 01:36:32,466
of one of the people
who had been taken.

1857
01:36:32,566 --> 01:36:36,133
So we all wept.

1858
01:36:36,233 --> 01:36:40,666
It was very difficult
to be in the place

1859
01:36:40,766 --> 01:36:43,066
where the slaves were housed

1860

01:36:43,166 --> 01:36:45,566
until the ship would come.

1861
01:36:47,366 --> 01:36:50,566
Those who could run away
ran away.

1862
01:36:50,666 --> 01:36:53,200
Women took their babies
by their feet

1863
01:36:53,300 --> 01:36:55,133
and slung them against trees

1864
01:36:55,233 --> 01:36:59,233
so that they wouldn't be
sold into slavery.

1865
01:36:59,333 --> 01:37:07,766
I could hear the wails of people
in caverns, in chains,

1866
01:37:07,866 --> 01:37:12,633
knowing that they would
never see their beloveds again.

1867
01:37:12,733 --> 01:37:15,100
That they would be
put into ships

1868
01:37:15,200 --> 01:37:18,966
and sailed across seas,

1869
01:37:19,066 --> 01:37:23,100
creating for me and mine
the worst times in our lives.

1870
01:37:25,466 --> 01:37:27,700
We've undergone
experiences too bizarre,

1871
01:37:27,800 --> 01:37:30,633
and yet here we are,
still here --

1872
01:37:30,733 --> 01:37:34,300
today, upwards of 50 million.

1873
01:37:34,400 --> 01:37:36,400
And I know there are people
who'd swear there are more

1874
01:37:36,500 --> 01:37:40,000
than 50 million black people
in the Baptist Church.

1875
01:37:40,100 --> 01:37:42,566
And they're not even
counting backsliders

1876
01:37:42,666 --> 01:37:44,700
and the three black atheists
in the world.

1877
01:37:44,800 --> 01:37:47,233
Still here.
Still here.

1878
01:37:47,333 --> 01:37:48,866
Amazing.

1879
01:37:48,966 --> 01:37:51,766
I think at some point,
we have to stop and wonder,

1880
01:37:51,866 --> 01:37:53,400
how did we come to a place

1881
01:37:53,500 --> 01:37:58,133
where young men call
their other gender "ho."

1882
01:37:58,233 --> 01:37:59,800
What happened?

1883
01:37:59,900 --> 01:38:03,900
And to use the N-word
as if that's okay to use.

1884
01:38:04,000 --> 01:38:06,700
It's not, and you know it's not.

1885
01:38:06,800 --> 01:38:08,500
-When I was working
on my new album,

1886
01:38:08,600 --> 01:38:10,166
"The Dreamer, the Believer,"

1887
01:38:10,266 --> 01:38:13,200
and Dr. Maya Angelou
was a friend of mine.

1888
01:38:13,300 --> 01:38:16,566
She wrote a piece for it,
and we placed it in the song.

1889
01:38:16,666 --> 01:38:19,133
-Once you find your shoulders
dropping

1890
01:38:19,233 --> 01:38:22,233
and your speech
gets slow and hazy,

1891
01:38:22,333 --> 01:38:24,233
you'd better change
your way of being.

1892
01:38:24,333 --> 01:38:28,000
-Well, I was using, like,
the N-word in it.

1893
01:38:28,100 --> 01:38:32,400
So a writer
brought that up to her,

1894
01:38:32,500 --> 01:38:33,766
and she, you know,

1895
01:38:33,866 --> 01:38:36,600
expressed that
she wasn't happy with that.

1896
01:38:36,700 --> 01:38:40,166
-Maya Angelou came out and said
she was disappointed in you.

1897
01:38:40,266 --> 01:38:41,533
-And the use of the N-word.

1898
01:38:41,633 --> 01:38:43,066

-She was -- I wouldn't use
the word disappointed.

1899
01:38:43,166 --> 01:38:46,533
She was like, basically,
she was just surprised.

1900
01:38:46,633 --> 01:38:48,033
So I got on the phone with her.

1901
01:38:48,133 --> 01:38:50,666
I gave her my perspective on,

1902
01:38:50,766 --> 01:38:53,166
man, you know,
this is part of our culture,

1903
01:38:53,266 --> 01:38:55,166
and I know the word
came from a bad thing,

1904
01:38:55,266 --> 01:38:56,366
but we're turning it
into something positive,

1905
01:38:56,466 --> 01:38:58,366
and she wasn't trying
to hear all that.

1906
01:38:58,466 --> 01:39:01,666
-No, no, no, no, no.
It's vulgar.

1907
01:39:01,766 --> 01:39:05,833
It's created
to demean a human being.

1908
01:39:05,933 --> 01:39:09,000
I know black people say,
"I can use it 'cause I'm black."

1909
01:39:09,100 --> 01:39:12,200
No, no, if a thing is poison

1910
01:39:12,300 --> 01:39:14,700
and it's got a skull
and bones on it,

1911
01:39:14,800 --> 01:39:16,533
you can take that content

1912
01:39:16,633 --> 01:39:19,000
and pour it
into Bavarian crystal,

1913
01:39:19,100 --> 01:39:20,733
it's still poison.

1914
01:39:20,833 --> 01:39:22,700
-The firing of Don Imus
for his remarks

1915
01:39:22,800 --> 01:39:24,666
about the Rutgers women's
basketball team

1916
01:39:24,766 --> 01:39:26,466
touched off
a national discussion

1917
01:39:26,566 --> 01:39:28,200
about the power of words.

1918
01:39:28,300 --> 01:39:30,633
Well, fewer Americans we know
have a greater mastery of words

1919
01:39:30,733 --> 01:39:31,933
than Maya Angelou.

1920
01:39:32,033 --> 01:39:34,033
What is your reaction
when you heard the words

1921
01:39:34,133 --> 01:39:35,600
Don Imus used this week?

1922
01:39:35,700 --> 01:39:38,400
-I was really sorry.
I was sorry for him.

1923
01:39:38,500 --> 01:39:40,666
I just felt really brought down.

1924

01:39:40,766 --> 01:39:42,633
-Those are some nappy-headed
hos there,

1925
01:39:42,733 --> 01:39:44,266
I'm gonna tell you that now.

1926
01:39:44,366 --> 01:39:45,600
-Russell Simmons, the head

1927
01:39:45,700 --> 01:39:48,000
of the Hip-Hop Summit Action
Network, has said...

1928
01:39:54,733 --> 01:39:56,933
Do you agree with what?
-No, I certainly do not.

1929
01:39:57,033 --> 01:39:58,266
It is all the same.

1930
01:39:58,366 --> 01:40:01,000
All vulgarity is vulgarity.

1931
01:40:01,100 --> 01:40:03,533
I would ask the hip-hoppers,

1932
01:40:03,633 --> 01:40:07,500
if you wanted to see
how powerful you are,

1933
01:40:07,600 --> 01:40:09,933
use Miss Laura Bush

1934
01:40:10,033 --> 01:40:12,933
and call her
one of those B-words.

1935
01:40:13,033 --> 01:40:14,766
And see how long you will live.

1936
01:40:14,866 --> 01:40:17,700
There wouldn't be enough
rope to hang your butts.

1937
01:40:17,800 --> 01:40:21,566
But black women, because we are

last on the totem pole,

1938

01:40:21,666 --> 01:40:25,933
everybody has a chance
to take a chance on us.

1939

01:40:26,033 --> 01:40:27,966
Well, not now.

1940

01:40:28,066 --> 01:40:29,533
-I have been in the house
where somebody

1941

01:40:29,633 --> 01:40:31,700
on the other side of the room

1942

01:40:31,800 --> 01:40:35,700
was in the midst
of telling a joke,

1943

01:40:35,800 --> 01:40:39,900
and I think this happened
to be a joke about a gay person,

1944

01:40:40,000 --> 01:40:44,033
and she hears the tone
of that joke,

1945

01:40:44,133 --> 01:40:46,300
and she stops the party

1946

01:40:46,400 --> 01:40:50,100
and asks them to leave her home.

1947

01:40:50,200 --> 01:40:54,300
"Not in my house will those
kinds of words be spoken."

1948

01:40:54,400 --> 01:40:59,233
-So when I see the children
using the words,

1949

01:40:59,333 --> 01:41:01,366
I stop them and say,

1950

01:41:01,466 --> 01:41:03,900
"Excuse me

just a minute, please."

1951

01:41:04,000 --> 01:41:08,800
John Singleton did a movie
called "Poetic Justice."

1952

01:41:08,900 --> 01:41:10,300
And he asked if he could use

1953

01:41:10,400 --> 01:41:14,933
some of my poetry
for Janet Jackson to speak.

1954

01:41:15,033 --> 01:41:17,066
-Storm clouds are gathering.

1955

01:41:17,166 --> 01:41:18,766
The wind is gonna blow.

1956

01:41:18,866 --> 01:41:22,066
The race of man is suffering.

1957

01:41:22,166 --> 01:41:23,966
-And I said, "Yes, of course."

1958

01:41:24,066 --> 01:41:27,800
Then he asked would I come out
to California and do a cameo.

1959

01:41:27,900 --> 01:41:30,966
-The parents are not
taking care of the children.

1960

01:41:31,066 --> 01:41:32,366
They are not...

1961

01:41:32,466 --> 01:41:37,066
-And there was one young man
on the set who was cursing.

1962

01:41:37,166 --> 01:41:39,500
He was using -- whoo!

1963

01:41:39,600 --> 01:41:43,100
I mean, you could see the blue
come out of his mouth, ooh.

1964
01:41:43,200 --> 01:41:47,266
I mean, combinations of words
I had -- Wow.

1965
01:41:47,366 --> 01:41:52,533
So the next day, when I
came out, he was still cursing.

1966
01:41:52,633 --> 01:41:56,333
And then he got into a big row
with another young man.

1967
01:41:56,433 --> 01:41:58,500
They were going to fisticuffs.

1968
01:41:58,600 --> 01:42:00,233
-This was the period in which

1969
01:42:00,333 --> 01:42:03,033
the L.A. riots
had just broken out.

1970
01:42:03,133 --> 01:42:05,366
And so there was a lot
of tension on the set.

1971
01:42:05,466 --> 01:42:06,866
At a certain point,
he just went --

1972
01:42:06,966 --> 01:42:09,666
you know, he just went
for the dude like, you know,

1973
01:42:09,766 --> 01:42:11,100
he's gonna whup his ass,
you know?

1974
01:42:11,200 --> 01:42:12,333
And going after him.

1975
01:42:12,433 --> 01:42:14,533
He was just a straight tornado.

1976
01:42:14,633 --> 01:42:17,733
And Dr. Angelou just said,
"Honey, come here.

1977
01:42:17,833 --> 01:42:20,066
Honey, come here, come here.
Come to me."

1978
01:42:20,166 --> 01:42:22,200
-And I said, "Excuse me.

1979
01:42:22,300 --> 01:42:23,666
May I speak?"

1980
01:42:23,766 --> 01:42:25,066
The young man
who was cursing said,

1981
01:42:25,166 --> 01:42:26,233
"I wouldn't give a --"

1982
01:42:26,333 --> 01:42:28,066
I said, "I understand that.

1983
01:42:28,166 --> 01:42:29,833
I understand that.
But may I speak?"

1984
01:42:29,933 --> 01:42:33,800
"If these mo--" I said, "Mm-hmm.
I've heard that before, too.

1985
01:42:33,900 --> 01:42:35,566
But may I speak to you?"

1986
01:42:35,666 --> 01:42:38,900
"You see, if they think,
they've really got it wrong."

1987
01:42:39,000 --> 01:42:40,200
So I said, "I see that.

1988
01:42:40,300 --> 01:42:42,466
But when was the last time

1989
01:42:42,566 --> 01:42:46,766
anyone told you
how important you are?

1990

01:42:46,866 --> 01:42:49,266

You're the best we have.

1991

01:42:49,366 --> 01:42:51,866

We need you desperately.

1992

01:42:51,966 --> 01:42:55,666

Do you know that our people
stood on auction blocks for you?

1993

01:42:55,766 --> 01:42:59,933

Did you know we got up before
sunrise and slept after sunset

1994

01:43:00,033 --> 01:43:04,633

so that you could stay alive,
you could be here this day?"

1995

01:43:04,733 --> 01:43:06,700

And I put my arm
around his waist,

1996

01:43:06,800 --> 01:43:11,233

and I just walked him down
a little sort of decline.

1997

01:43:11,333 --> 01:43:14,966

And I talked to him
about our people.

1998

01:43:15,066 --> 01:43:16,433

-And she put her arms
around him,

1999

01:43:16,533 --> 01:43:17,700

and she just walked him away.

2000

01:43:17,800 --> 01:43:19,900

And they had their own
private moment, you know.

2001

01:43:20,000 --> 01:43:23,066

I don't know everything that
was said, but it was phenomenal.

2002

01:43:23,166 --> 01:43:25,933

-Suddenly, he started to cry.

2003
01:43:26,033 --> 01:43:31,900
And I turned his back to the
crowd and just talked to him.

2004
01:43:32,000 --> 01:43:34,200
I didn't have a Kleenex
or handkerchief.

2005
01:43:34,300 --> 01:43:38,800
I just took my hand
and wiped his face.

2006
01:43:38,900 --> 01:43:41,866
And when he had control
of himself again,

2007
01:43:41,966 --> 01:43:44,633
I continued to my trailer.

2008
01:43:44,733 --> 01:43:46,100
Within two minutes,

2009
01:43:46,200 --> 01:43:48,933
Miss Janet Jackson
came to my trailer.

2010
01:43:49,033 --> 01:43:50,300
She said, "Dr. Angelou,

2011
01:43:50,400 --> 01:43:55,266
I don't believe you actually
spoke to Tupac Shakur."

2012
01:43:55,366 --> 01:43:59,133
So I said, "Darling,
I don't know Six-pack Shakur."

2013
01:43:59,233 --> 01:44:01,733
I did not think...

2014
01:44:01,833 --> 01:44:04,166
I had no idea who he was.

2015
01:44:04,266 --> 01:44:07,300
She said, "But he's
a very famous rap star."

2016
01:44:07,400 --> 01:44:09,933
So I said, "Oh, well,
I'm glad to know that,

2017
01:44:10,033 --> 01:44:12,933
and he's fine, and all is well."

2018
01:44:13,033 --> 01:44:15,666
-For him, it was like --
it was golden.

2019
01:44:15,766 --> 01:44:16,866
You know,
it was a golden moment.

2020
01:44:16,966 --> 01:44:19,200
He told his mother,
Afeni Shakur, about it.

2021
01:44:19,300 --> 01:44:20,633
Afeni wrote Maya a letter

2022
01:44:20,733 --> 01:44:25,000
and, "Thank you
for looking out for Pac."

2023
01:44:25,100 --> 01:44:29,166
-She's been the person that
has literally been at my back

2024
01:44:29,266 --> 01:44:30,500
and at my front,

2025
01:44:30,600 --> 01:44:33,233
leading me through
this sort of matrix

2026
01:44:33,333 --> 01:44:35,533
of fame, notoriety,

2027
01:44:35,633 --> 01:44:37,966
growing into yourself
as a woman.

2028
01:44:38,066 --> 01:44:40,666
The best thing
she ever said to me was,

2029
01:44:40,766 --> 01:44:42,166
"You are enough."

2030
01:44:42,266 --> 01:44:45,500
So her understanding
of that for herself

2031
01:44:45,600 --> 01:44:48,233
and being able to impart
that through her work

2032
01:44:48,333 --> 01:44:51,233
and her words to our culture

2033
01:44:51,333 --> 01:44:53,133
is that each of us,

2034
01:44:53,233 --> 01:44:55,166
just the way we're born,

2035
01:44:55,266 --> 01:44:57,466
just with the gifts
that we have to offer,

2036
01:44:57,566 --> 01:44:58,900
you alone are enough.

2037
01:44:59,000 --> 01:45:03,933
-I must tell you first
that I have you in my heart.

2038
01:45:04,033 --> 01:45:08,533
I see myself in you
as a young person in Stamps.

2039
01:45:08,633 --> 01:45:10,666
I hope you see yourselves in me.

2040
01:45:10,766 --> 01:45:16,500
Get your work done, study,
put it in the brain.

2041
01:45:16,600 --> 01:45:22,266
This machine will do
anything for you -- anything.

2042
01:45:22,366 --> 01:45:25,500
It will take you to China
if you want to go.

2043
01:45:25,600 --> 01:45:28,266
It will take you to New York,
if you want to go.

2044
01:45:28,366 --> 01:45:31,000
It will make you principal
of this school

2045
01:45:31,100 --> 01:45:32,333
if you want it to.

2046
01:45:32,433 --> 01:45:33,666
You understand?

2047
01:45:33,766 --> 01:45:37,466
Somebody is going to make laws
for this entire land.

2048
01:45:37,566 --> 01:45:40,166
Is it going to be you?
Is it going to be you?

2049
01:45:40,266 --> 01:45:42,066
The chance is there.

2050
01:45:42,166 --> 01:45:44,500
It's so exciting.

2051
01:45:44,600 --> 01:45:47,766
-Everybody needs somebody
in their life who can --

2052
01:45:47,866 --> 01:45:49,933
you can go all
the way there with.

2053
01:45:50,033 --> 01:45:52,300
And with her,
you can go all the way.

2054
01:45:52,400 --> 01:45:57,400
There's nothing so dark,
so deep, so dirty,

2055
01:45:57,500 --> 01:46:01,366
so anything that she can't
hear it, understand it,

2056
01:46:01,466 --> 01:46:03,166
and help cleanse you from it.

2057
01:46:03,266 --> 01:46:05,433
That is something that
we all need in our life,

2058
01:46:05,533 --> 01:46:07,600
'cause you think you're grown
and you're just not.

2059
01:46:07,700 --> 01:46:09,066
You're still a child.

2060
01:46:09,166 --> 01:46:11,933
-And that's kind of
what I like about Dr. Angelou.

2061
01:46:12,033 --> 01:46:14,300
'Cause I know I'm not perfect
and whatever,

2062
01:46:14,400 --> 01:46:15,633
but it's something

2063
01:46:15,733 --> 01:46:18,400
that she can look at me,
and she kind of --

2064
01:46:18,500 --> 01:46:20,133
she can kind of put
the picture together.

2065
01:46:20,233 --> 01:46:23,266
She knows I'm just a dude
trying to figure it out.

2066
01:46:23,366 --> 01:46:25,800
-The Comedy Central star
stunned his fans

2067
01:46:25,900 --> 01:46:28,433

when he suddenly just
walked away from the hit TV show

2068
01:46:28,533 --> 01:46:31,900
and a \$50 million contract.

2069
01:46:32,000 --> 01:46:36,300
-And lots of money is dangled
before people's eyes.

2070
01:46:36,400 --> 01:46:40,600
It's important, if not,
in fact, imperative...

2071
01:46:40,700 --> 01:46:46,800
that each knows that
there's a line

2072
01:46:46,900 --> 01:46:50,833
beyond which you will not go.

2073
01:46:50,933 --> 01:46:53,300
And some would say, "Damn, Jack!"

2074
01:46:53,400 --> 01:46:55,900
You're giving this up?"

2075
01:46:58,700 --> 01:47:00,100
I know it.
-Yeah.

2076
01:47:00,200 --> 01:47:02,133
-I know it too well.

2077
01:47:02,233 --> 01:47:04,433
But the thing is,
you have someplace

2078
01:47:04,533 --> 01:47:08,666
that nobody can take you beyond.

2079
01:47:08,766 --> 01:47:12,533
Somewhere in the bend
of your elbow.

2080
01:47:15,266 --> 01:47:17,600
You see?

2081
01:47:17,700 --> 01:47:20,200
Nobody.

2082
01:47:23,933 --> 01:47:26,433
-Something else, man.

2083
01:47:29,633 --> 01:47:31,866
-This is called "I'm Aging,"

2084
01:47:31,966 --> 01:47:34,366
which I wrote as a song.

2085
01:47:34,466 --> 01:47:36,633
When you see me walking,
stumbling,

2086
01:47:36,733 --> 01:47:39,033
don't study and get it wrong.

2087
01:47:39,133 --> 01:47:40,766
Tired don't mean lazy.

2088
01:47:40,866 --> 01:47:42,433
Every goodbye ain't gone.

2089
01:47:42,533 --> 01:47:44,633
I'm the same person
I was back then.

2090
01:47:44,733 --> 01:47:47,466
A little less heart,
a little less chin,

2091
01:47:47,566 --> 01:47:50,133
some less lungs
and some less wind.

2092
01:47:50,233 --> 01:47:52,900
But ain't I lucky
I can still breathe in?

2093
01:47:53,000 --> 01:47:54,700
Hey!
-I love it.

2094

01:47:54,800 --> 01:47:55,866

-Yeah.

2095

01:47:55,966 --> 01:47:57,900

I'm a patient of COPD,

2096

01:47:58,000 --> 01:48:02,066

which means chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

2097

01:48:02,166 --> 01:48:07,533

And my lungs are so mangled that I don't get enough oxygen.

2098

01:48:07,633 --> 01:48:11,866

And so I have to have supplementary oxygen.

2099

01:48:11,966 --> 01:48:16,333

-As she got older, it was more difficult.

2100

01:48:16,433 --> 01:48:21,566

And that's why she really made an effort,

2101

01:48:21,666 --> 01:48:25,800

and she was visibly challenged

2102

01:48:25,900 --> 01:48:27,900

but dismissive of it.

2103

01:48:28,000 --> 01:48:31,300

Everyone else was trying to make sure things were right for her.

2104

01:48:31,400 --> 01:48:32,966

She just wanted to live her life.

2105

01:48:33,066 --> 01:48:35,200

-□ Simply the best

2106

01:48:35,300 --> 01:48:40,200

-She knew that if she didn't continue to go, she would stop.

2107

01:48:40,300 --> 01:48:41,966

That's what fed her.

2108

01:48:42,066 --> 01:48:48,233

She had this

incredible love for people.

2109

01:48:48,333 --> 01:48:54,066

And she did everything that
she could to keep herself alive

2110

01:48:54,166 --> 01:48:58,466

and to keep people being fed
by that energy.

2111

01:48:58,566 --> 01:49:01,366

-A blessing!

Praise God, praise God!

2112

01:49:01,466 --> 01:49:02,400

-Thank you.

2113

01:49:02,500 --> 01:49:04,366

-Don't take this one.

2114

01:49:04,466 --> 01:49:06,600

-I think one of the things

2115

01:49:06,700 --> 01:49:11,766

that brings people together

2116

01:49:11,866 --> 01:49:14,066

at any time

during their lives...

2117

01:49:16,033 --> 01:49:17,433

-No.

-Yes.

2118

01:49:17,533 --> 01:49:18,666

That's why I'm so honored.

2119

01:49:18,766 --> 01:49:20,233

-I'm so pleased.

2120

01:49:25,466 --> 01:49:26,666

All right, now!

2121
01:49:26,766 --> 01:49:32,200

-It's a recognition
of a similarity.

2122
01:49:32,300 --> 01:49:36,600
And that is the bond

that brings you together.

2123
01:49:37,366 --> 01:49:38,633
-Of course.

2124
01:49:42,400 --> 01:49:45,833
-We talked all the time.

2125
01:49:45,933 --> 01:49:47,700
And so she knew

I was doing the play,

2126
01:49:47,800 --> 01:49:52,766
and she talked to several people
who had seen it.

2127
01:49:52,866 --> 01:49:55,566
And I knew she wasn't well.

2128
01:49:55,666 --> 01:49:59,200
And I didn't want her
to feel any pressure

2129
01:49:59,300 --> 01:50:04,200
about coming to see it
in New York City.

2130
01:50:04,300 --> 01:50:07,366
One evening, the show's over.

2131
01:50:07,466 --> 01:50:11,066
One of the stage managers says,

2132
01:50:11,166 --> 01:50:15,200
"There's a guest of yours here."

2133
01:50:15,300 --> 01:50:18,366
I go upstairs...

2134

01:50:18,466 --> 01:50:22,100
and she's at the head
of the steps in her wheelchair.

2135
01:50:25,766 --> 01:50:28,400
-□ When God shut Noah

2136
01:50:28,500 --> 01:50:32,066
□ In the grand old ark

2137
01:50:32,166 --> 01:50:34,166
-I hope she's happy.

2138
01:50:34,266 --> 01:50:36,300
-□ He put a rainbow

2139
01:50:36,400 --> 01:50:39,666
□ In the cloud

2140
01:50:41,733 --> 01:50:45,300
When the thunder roared

2141
01:50:45,400 --> 01:50:48,866
□ And the sky got dark

2142
01:50:48,966 --> 01:50:55,233
□ God put a rainbow
in the cloud □

2143
01:50:55,333 --> 01:50:58,566
□ In the cloud

2144
01:50:58,666 --> 01:51:01,666
□ In the cloud

2145
01:51:01,766 --> 01:51:03,233
-All of us have
different fingerprints,

2146
01:51:03,333 --> 01:51:04,733
but some of our fingerprints

2147
01:51:04,833 --> 01:51:07,633
are so indelible on the lives

2148
01:51:07,733 --> 01:51:10,733

of other people
when they touch us.

2149
01:51:12,766 --> 01:51:15,600
Miss Maya is gone,

2150
01:51:15,700 --> 01:51:19,000
and nobody is gonna
talk like she talked

2151
01:51:19,100 --> 01:51:22,300
or walk like she walked.

2152
01:51:22,400 --> 01:51:24,066
I mean, she left us
plenty of things.

2153
01:51:24,166 --> 01:51:28,800
We can't be greedy, but, man,

2154
01:51:28,900 --> 01:51:33,166
the curtain going down
on that act...

2155
01:51:33,266 --> 01:51:37,200
Thank God I got to live
in that time.

2156
01:51:37,300 --> 01:51:40,766
-□ Steal away

2157
01:51:40,866 --> 01:51:46,366
□ Steal away home

2158
01:51:46,466 --> 01:51:51,800
□ I ain't got long

2159
01:51:51,900 --> 01:51:58,466
□ To stay here

2160
01:51:58,566 --> 01:52:00,400
[Bell tolling]

2161
01:52:03,966 --> 01:52:03,966
-You may write me down
in history

2162
01:52:03,966 --> 01:52:06,666
-You may write me down
in history

2163
01:52:06,700 --> 01:52:09,066
-You may write me down
in history

2164
01:52:09,100 --> 01:52:12,100
-You may write me down
in history

2165
01:52:12,133 --> 01:52:15,900
-You may write me down
in history

2166
01:52:15,933 --> 01:52:18,333
-You may write me down
in history

2167
01:52:18,366 --> 01:52:20,833
-You may write me down
in history

2168
01:52:20,866 --> 01:52:24,033
-You may write me down
in history

2169
01:52:24,066 --> 01:52:26,800
-You may write me down
in history

2170
01:52:26,833 --> 01:52:33,133
-You may write me down
in history

2171
01:52:33,166 --> 01:52:39,733
-You may write me down
in history

2172
01:52:39,766 --> 01:52:44,200
-You may write me down
in history

2173
01:52:44,233 --> 01:52:49,566
-You may write me down
in history

2174
01:52:49,600 --> 01:52:51,933
-You may write me down
in history

2175
01:52:51,966 --> 01:52:54,433
-You may write me down
in history

2176
01:52:51,966 --> 01:52:54,466
-You may write me down
in history

2177
01:52:54,466 --> 01:52:54,466
I rise!

2178
01:52:54,466 --> 01:52:57,200
I rise!